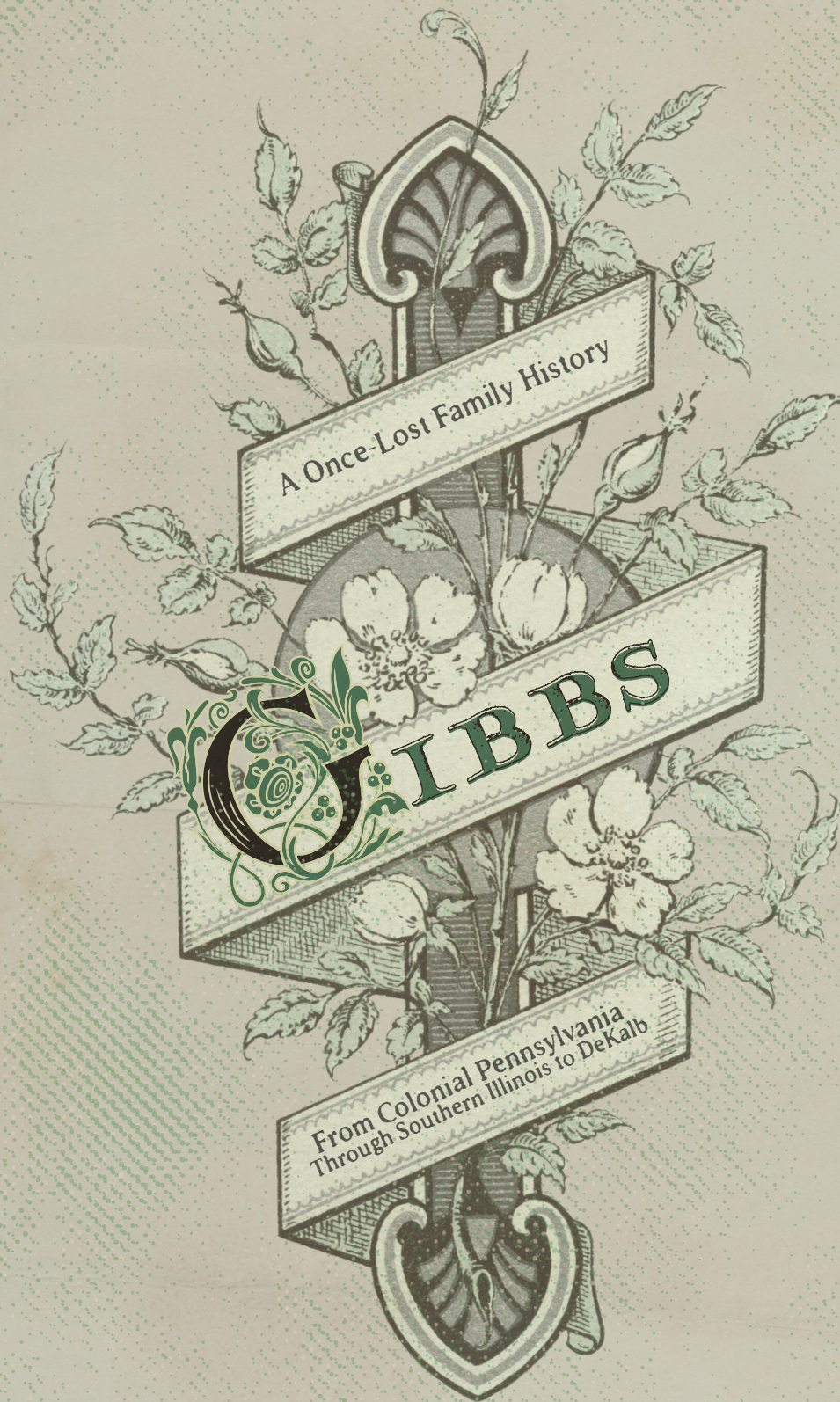




Written & Researched by:
Derek M. Gibbs

Family history is an ongoing and collaborative effort. Readers who possess family stories, documents, photographs, scans, files, or other materials relevant to the families discussed in this book—or who have questions, corrections, or additional information to share—are warmly encouraged to make contact.

Please direct correspondence to:

GibbsGenealogy815@gmail.com

All contributions are appreciated and
will be carefully reviewed for consideration in future editions.

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This work represents an effort to preserve historical records, personal narratives, and family heritage that might otherwise be lost to time. Its contents are shared in good faith for the benefit of present and future generations of the family.

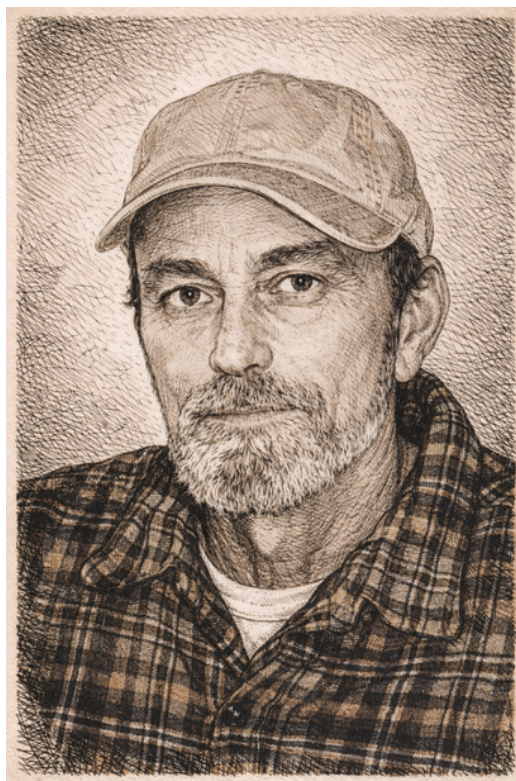
Artificial intelligence was used sparingly as an editorial and visual aid. All historical research, factual content, graphic design and genealogical conclusions are the author's own.

A digital copy of this book has been uploaded to Archive.org

Written and Researched by:
Derek M. Gibbs
Grandson of George L Gibbs and Barbara J Cook



Dedicated to my dad,
Roger Allen Gibbs
1954 - 2021



First Print
Privately Published for Genealogical Purposes
Spring 2026

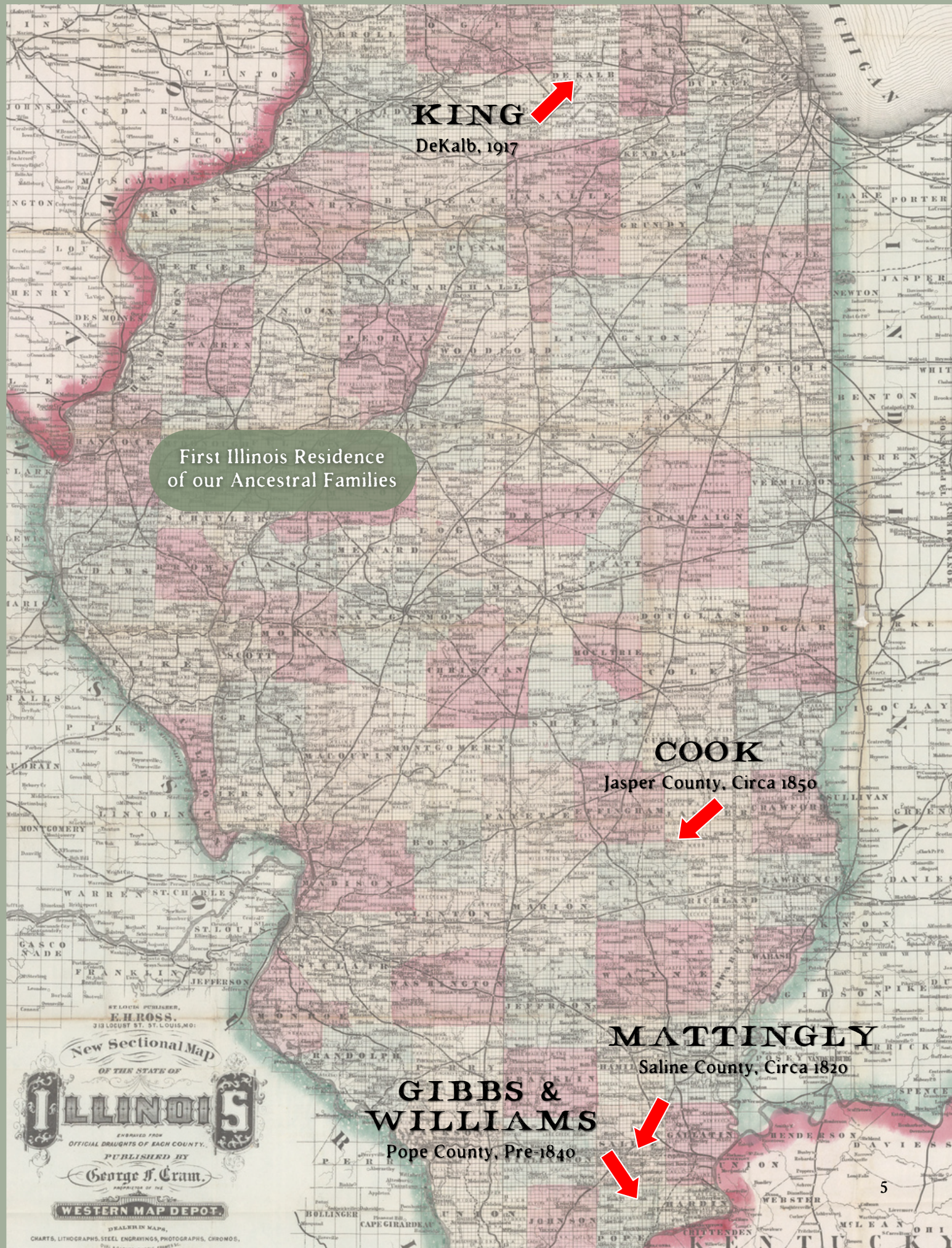
of 35

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTERS

1. Robert Sr and Samuel Gibbs
2. Cornelious Marion Gibbs, Sr.
3. Green & Alex Gibbs
4. John, Josiah and G. B. Williams
5. Tom W. Gibbs
6. Gertie Mattingly
7. George Lincoln Gibbs
8. Barbara Cook
9. Arthur and Ethel Cook
10. William Albert Cook & Maggie Crisel
11. Zachariah & John W. King
12. DeKalb, Illinois





KING

DeKalb, 1917

First Illinois Residence
of our Ancestral Families

COOK

Jasper County, Circa 1850

MATTINGLY

Saline County, Circa 1820

**GIBBS &
WILLIAMS**

Pope County, Pre-1840



OREWARD

“That a man should be proud of his ancestors is but natural.”

-Montgomery B. Gibbs

Author of A Golden Legacy To The Gibbs Family In America (1893)

Some families leave behind headstones and fragments; others leave behind stories, whispered across generations. The Gibbs, Williams, Mattingly, Cook, and King families have left us both—documents and legends, courthouse filings and family lore, land deeds and faded photographs—each a surviving thread of a broader American tapestry. Their paths wind through the American colonies, early Kentucky settlements, Illinois frontier homesteads, Civil War encampments, coal-town crossroads, and neighborhoods shaped by hope and hardship.

Each of these family lines arrived in America prior to the American Revolution, placing their descendants among the nation’s earliest settlers. From that foundation, they became participants—by choice or by circumstance—in nearly every major turning point of American history. Their lives unfolded alongside the Revolution, the institution of slavery, the Civil War, westward expansion, and the opening of the frontier. They were present at the early settlement of Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri, and in later generations their cousins and descendants dispersed still farther, carrying these family lines into nearly every corner of the country, including Texas, California, and Louisiana.

For most of these men and women, life was rooted in the land. The overwhelming majority were farmers—clearing timber, breaking sod, fencing fields, planting and harvesting in rhythms governed by weather and season. Land was livelihood, inheritance, and identity. Farms anchored families to place, shaped migration patterns, and dictated when and how generations moved west. Even those who later worked as laborers, tradesmen, or merchants often emerged from farming households, carrying with them the values and discipline of agricultural life.

Yet much of this history did not survive intact within family memory. Very little of what appears in these pages was passed down to me or even to my parents’ generation. Names endured, but stories faded; relationships blurred; places were remembered without context. What remains here has been recovered through meticulous research—pieced together from scattered records, forgotten filings, and fragile sources—so that these individuals and their lives are no longer lost to our family.

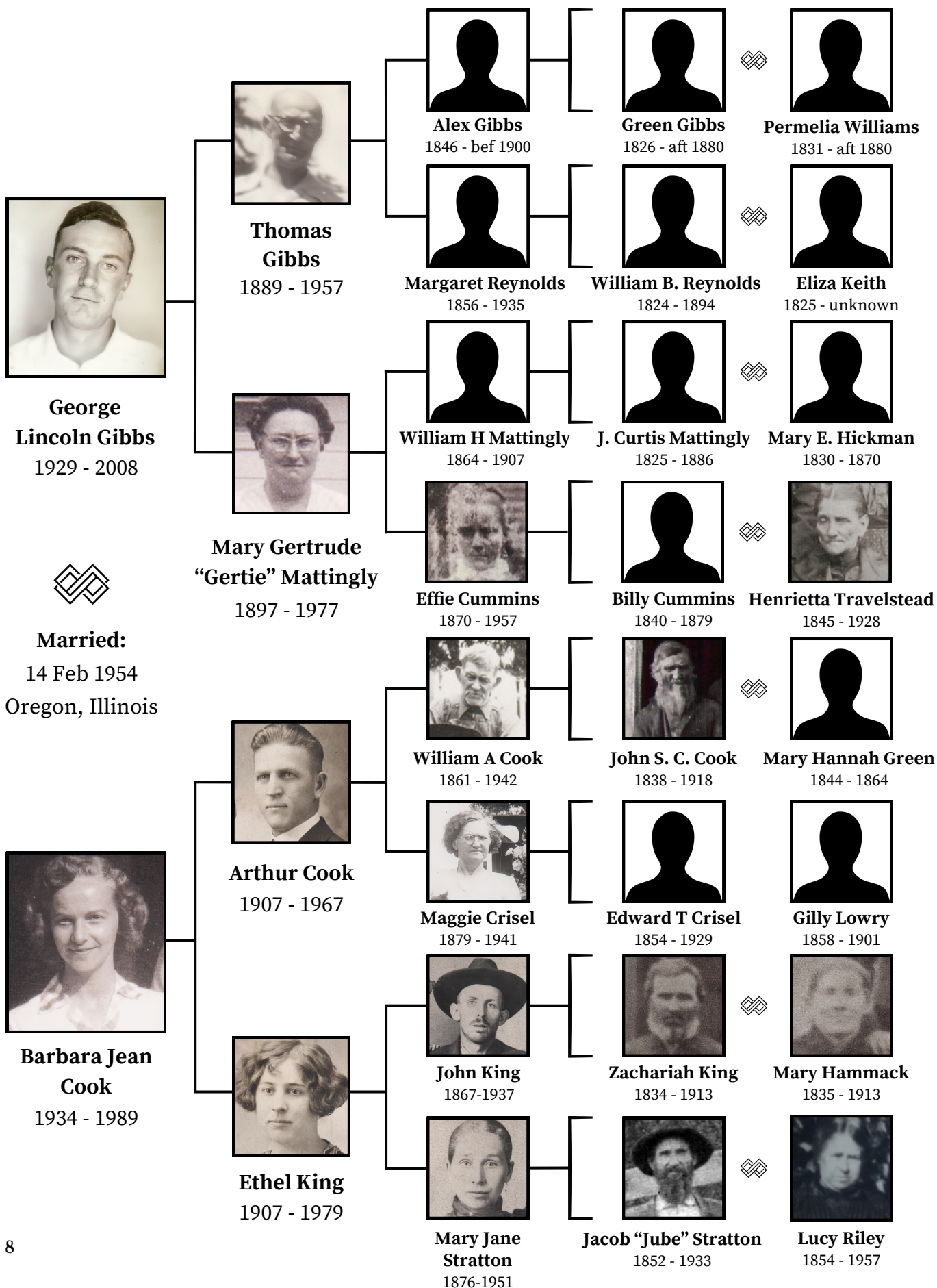
This book follows the lives they lived—not just the names they carried. It explores how families intertwined through marriage and migration; how bonds of kinship endured through conflict, separation, and the unrecorded spaces between censuses. It traces farmers and soldiers, merchants and mothers, pioneers and patriots, all navigating eras of war, expansion, upheaval, and reinvention.

The Gibbs line anchored itself against the rugged timber and rock of southern Illinois. The Williams family carried deep frontier roots and enduring Appalachian ties. The Mattinglys brought with them the legacy of settlers who shaped early Kentucky communities. The Cooks reflected the working spirit of Midwestern reinvention as the nation industrialized. And the Kings held fast to land, family, and tradition through wars, migrations, and the shifting fortunes of nineteenth-century America.

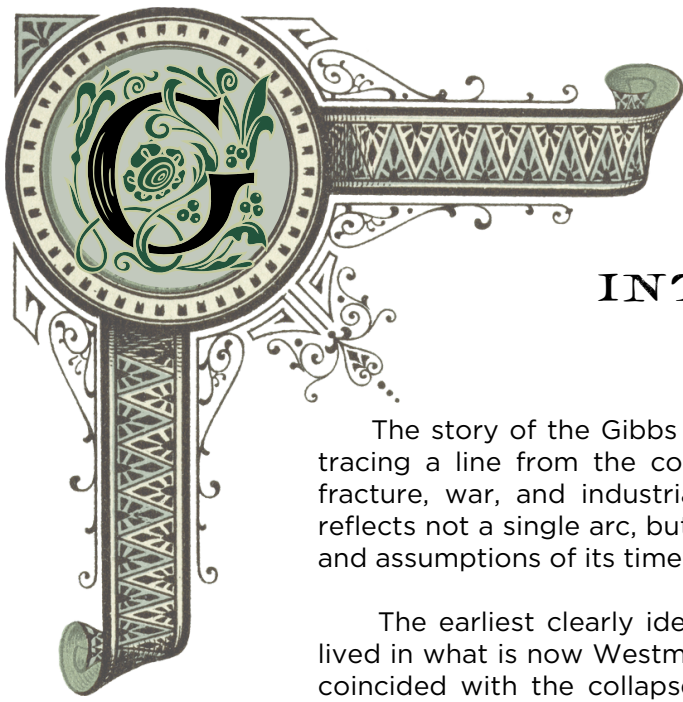
Their lives intersected through geography, necessity, faith, opportunity, and at times—remarkably—by coincidence. They lived hard but meaningful lives, recorded unevenly in archives but vividly preserved through reconstruction. In bringing their histories back into view, we rediscover the ordinary heroism of everyday survival—the quiet resilience that built the nation from cabin to courthouse, from backwoods trail to small-town main street.

This is not simply a genealogy. It is a recovery of lived experience. It is the stitching back together of stories nearly lost. It is a tribute to those whose names we bear, whose lives might otherwise have faded from memory, and whose journeys—spanning colonies to nationhood, frontier to heartland—brought us here.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'JG' with a stylized flourish extending from the 'G'.







INTRODUCTION TO THE GIBBS

The story of the Gibbs family spans the formative years of the United States, tracing a line from the colonial backcountry through frontier settlement, moral fracture, war, and industrial migration. Across generations, the family's history reflects not a single arc, but a series of adaptations—each shaped by the demands and assumptions of its time.

The earliest clearly identifiable ancestor in this line is Robert Gibbs Sr., who lived in what is now Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and died in 1776. His life coincided with the collapse of British colonial authority and the birth of a new nation, though he did not live to see its outcome fully realized. Like many men of his generation, Robert belonged to a world defined by subsistence farming, local obligation, and regional identity rather than national consciousness. His death at the outset of the Revolutionary era marks the family's first transition—from colonial subjects to citizens-in-the-making.

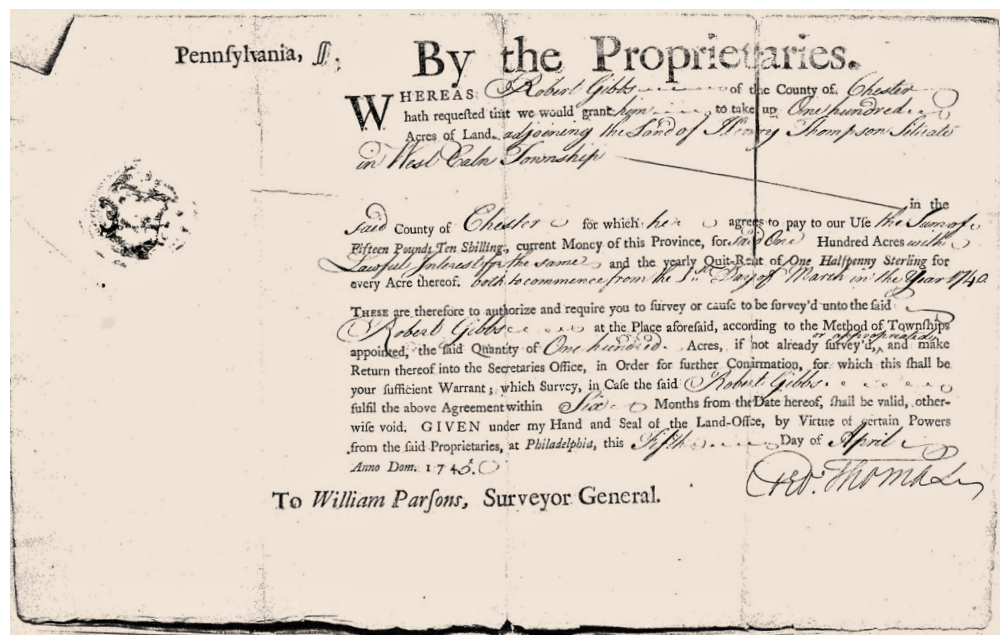
His son, Samuel Gibbs, came of age in that newly independent America and carried the family westward. Samuel's life bridged Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Missouri, and reflects the priorities of an early American patriarch: land acquisition, family advancement, and economic security. By 1830, Samuel was a small slaveholder, a fact that situates him squarely within the social and economic norms of the Upper South frontier. His participation in slavery was not anomalous for his time and place, but it would cast a long moral shadow across subsequent generations. Samuel's legacy lies not only in the land he held, but in the pathways he opened—intentionally or not—for his children.

One of those children, Cornelius Marion Gibbs, would chart a markedly different course. Establishing himself in southern Illinois in the late 1830s, Cornelius became the patriarch of the Illinois Gibbs family. In Illinois, he aligned himself with communities and institutions that opposed slavery, including churches influenced by abolitionist and reformist ideals. His civic service and community standing marked him as a trusted figure in a region shaped by ideological tension. Cornelius's life represents both continuity and divergence: continuity in the pursuit of land and stability, and divergence in moral orientation from aspects of his family's past.

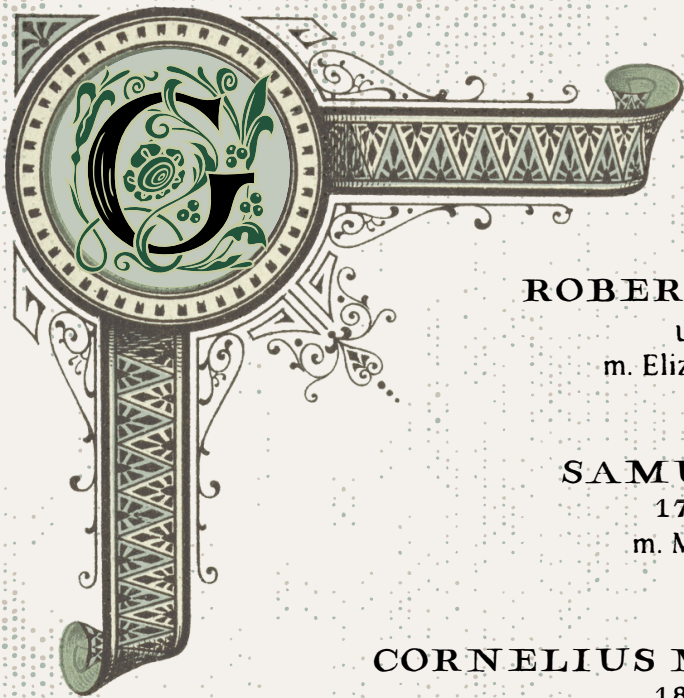
The costs of national conflict would reach the family directly 3 generations later. Tom Gibbs, a descendant of Cornelius, lived during a period when industrialized warfare reshaped both bodies and lives. Exposed to poison gas during World War I, Tom suffered lasting physical and psychological effects that ultimately led him to take his own life. His death stands as a stark reminder that the consequences of war did not end on the battlefield, and that the family's story, like the nation's, includes loss that cannot be reconciled through progress alone.

In the twentieth century, the family again adapted to changing realities. George Lincoln Gibbs represented a final major migration in this lineage, leaving southern Illinois for northern industrial centers, including DeKalb, Illinois. His move reflected a broader shift among rural families seeking economic stability through factory work, trades, and urban opportunity. With George, the Gibbs story entered the modern era—one shaped less by land and more by labor, mobility, and industrial life.

Taken together, these lives form a continuous thread through American history: from colonial Pennsylvania to frontier Kentucky and Illinois, through slavery and abolition, war and trauma, and finally into industrial modernity. The Gibbs family did not stand apart from history—they moved within it, shaped by its pressures and contradictions. This book follows that movement, not to smooth its edges, but to understand how ordinary lives carried forward the weight of extraordinary times.



This proprietary land warrant, issued in colonial Pennsylvania in 1745, is the oldest known surviving document associated with a Gibbs ancestor and marks the family's earliest firmly documented presence in North America. Granted by the Proprietaries to my 6th great grandfather Robert Gibbs of Chester County, it authorized the survey and acquisition of land in West Caln Township, placing the Gibbs family squarely within the mid-eighteenth-century frontier landscape of southeastern Pennsylvania. More than a routine land record, the document situates the family within the legal, economic, and geographic systems that shaped early colonial settlement—linking the Gibbs name to landholding, permanence, and participation in provincial society decades before the Revolutionary era. Just as importantly, the location, timing, and nature of this grant align closely with known patterns of Scots-Irish migration into Pennsylvania, particularly the movement of Presbyterian and Ulster-descended families into Chester and neighboring counties during the first half of the eighteenth century. As such, the warrant lends tangible documentary support to long-standing theories of the Gibbs family's Scots-Irish origins, providing an early contextual framework for understanding their cultural background, settlement choices, and subsequent westward movement explored throughout this chapter.



GIBBS

PATERNAL LINEAGE

ROBERT GIBBS SR.

unk - 1776
m. Elizabeth Hinkson



SAMUEL GIBBS

1767 - 1835
m. Martha Logan



CORNELIUS MARION GIBBS SR.

1804 - 1882
m. Ann McDonald



THOMAS GREENBERRY "GREEN" GIBBS

1826 - ABT 1880
m. Permelia Williams



WILLIAM ALEXANDER "ALEX" GIBBS

1846 - BEFORE 1900
m. Margaret Reynolds



THOMAS WAYNE GIBBS

1889 - 1957
m. Mary Gertrude "Gertie" Mattingly



GEORGE LINCOLN GIBBS

1929 - 2008
m. Barbara Jean Cook



A decorative border surrounds the central text. It consists of four corner squares and four side rectangles. The corner squares feature a complex interlocking knot design with a central flower. The side rectangles feature a repeating floral and foliate pattern. The entire border is rendered in green and gold on a light background.

CHAPTER 1

ROBERT SR. &
SAMUEL
GIBBS



Samuel Gibbs lived at the hinge of American history, born about 1767 in the late colonial world and coming of age as the United States took shape. For much of his life, however, he appeared in the historical record without a clearly defined beginning. He enters Kentucky records in the early 1790s already established—acquiring land, forming a household, and working the frontier—while his earlier years remained blurred by assumption, repetition, and poorly sourced tradition.

That uncertainty dissolves with the documents that follow. The discovery of the 1776 will of Robert Gibbs Sr., together with corroborating Pennsylvania and Kentucky records, anchors Samuel's origins firmly in time and place. These sources establish that he was born in pre-Revolutionary Pennsylvania and raised within a backcountry culture shaped by land ownership, kinship networks, and self-reliance, before joining the westward movement that followed independence.

Samuel's early life unfolded in western Pennsylvania, a region defined by small farms, grain distillation, and political instability. It was a cash-poor society where opportunity depended less on money than on mobility, family cooperation, and access to land. Scotch-Irish farming families dominated this frontier landscape, and the evidence places Samuel squarely within that world.



Westmoreland County, PA 1780s

The will of Robert Gibbs Sr. brings clarity where later records introduced confusion. Executed in 1776 in Fairfield Township, Westmoreland County, the will names Samuel directly among Robert's sons and places him within a clearly defined household headed by Robert and Elizabeth Gibbs. Its provisions—calling for the children to be raised and educated from the estate, with property later divided equally—indicate that Samuel was still a minor at the time of his father's death. The appointment of Elizabeth and the eldest son, Hugh, as executors further supports this family structure and firmly establishes Samuel's birth in Pennsylvania prior to the American Revolution.

The broader context of the will situates Samuel within the Scots-Irish frontier culture of eighteenth-century western Pennsylvania. Westmoreland County was heavily settled by families originating in Ulster and the Scottish Lowlands, whose migration patterns, inheritance practices, and land-centered livelihoods followed recognizable traditions. Robert Gibbs Sr.'s designation as a yeoman, the structure of his estate, and the family's subsequent movement align closely with this pattern. Samuel's appearance in Kentucky in the early 1790s follows a well-documented post-Revolutionary migration route out of Pennsylvania.

The will does not stand alone. Its conclusions are reinforced by land records documenting the sale of property in Pennsylvania and coordinated land acquisitions by family members in Kentucky. When combined with Y-DNA evidence excluding English-origin Gibbs lines, the documentary record maps Samuel's origins convincingly to a Pennsylvania Scotch-Irish family whose deeper roots most likely lay in Ireland and Scotland rather than England.

Understanding Samuel's Pennsylvania background also requires understanding the world he left behind. During the Revolutionary era, Westmoreland County stood at the far western edge of colonial settlement—a contested borderland shaped by overlapping land claims, militia activity, and unresolved sovereignty disputes between Pennsylvania and Virginia. Fort Pitt guarded access to the Ohio Valley, while frontier families lived amid political uncertainty, military tension, and the lingering effects of earlier conflicts.

In the early 1790s, the region became the epicenter of the Whiskey Rebellion. Small-scale farmers depended on distillation for survival, and the 1791 federal excise tax on spirits struck directly at that economic foundation. Resistance escalated rapidly in the same communities where the Gibbs family lived and farmed. Although no evidence places Samuel in acts of rebellion, the upheaval formed the backdrop of his final years in Pennsylvania.

Migration offered an alternative. Samuel had already reached Kentucky by 1792, suggesting that the family's reassessment of opportunity began before the rebellion's violent climax. What followed was not a sudden flight, but a deliberate, kin-based relocation. In August 1796, Elizabeth Gibbs purchased land along the Muddy River. Within days, Samuel and several brothers entered 200-acre tracts along Wolf Lick Fork and the Clifty Rivers. Additional family purchases followed in 1798. These coordinated transactions reflect intention and planning—an effort to reestablish stability, independence, and continuity on a new frontier.

THOMAS GIBBS - LAND SALE
Logan County, KY 1808

Gibbs to Saml Gibbs
This Indenture made and done the twentyfirst day of October in the year of our Lord and thousand eight hundred eight Between Samuel Gibbs John Gibbs Hugh Gibbs William Hobart

377
Gibbs heirs of Thomas Gibbs deceased and Philip Jones of the County of Logan and Commonwealth of Kentucky Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of two hundred and twenty dollars we have paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged both bargained sold and delivered and by these presents doth bargain sell and deliver all the piece and parcel of land lying and being in the said Logan County and state of Kentucky Beginning on the South side of fifty a tract of Muddy River Beginning at two rods and a buck running South 55 W 160 poles to a white Oak and sugar tree thence north 35 N 200 poles crossing said creek to an oak and sugar tree thence North 55 E 160 poles to a corner thence South 35 E 200 poles including two Improvements to the Beginning containing in the whole two hundred acres be the same more or less wth being a head right of land Granted by the State to Thomas Gibbs and we the above mentioned or appts and heirs being the only heirs of Thomas Gibbs deceased and we the now apptees present or Samuel Gibbs are authorized and charged by a Power of Attorney to act for the absent William Hobart Gibbs Together with all roads ways trailers profits advantages and Hereditaments Whatsoever So have and to hold the said land and premises with all its Appurtenances unto the said Philip Jones his heirs and assigns forever and we do promise and covenant against ourselves and heirs and assigns and all and every other person or persons to Warrant and defend forever the said Purchase from them laying any just or equitable right thereto In Witness Whereof we have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals the day date above Written signed sealed and delivered in Presence of
Samuel Gibbs
John Gibbs
Hugh Gibbs
Samuel Gibbs Attorney in fact for William Hobart
John Howell Mary Howell
Cassandra Jones
Samuel Gibbs Attorney in fact for Philip Gibbs

THOMAS GIBBS – LAND SALE Transcript

Heirs of Thomas Gibbs, deceased, unto Philip Jones of the County of Logan and Commonwealth of Kentucky—Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of two hundred and twenty dollars, to us paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have bargained, sold, and delivered, and by these presents do bargain, sell, and deliver unto the said Philip Jones all that piece and parcel of land lying and being in the aforesaid Logan County and State of Kentucky, beginning on the south side of Clifty, a branch of Muddy River, beginning at two red oaks and a beech; running thence South 55° West 160 poles to a white oak and sugar tree; thence North 35° West 200 poles, crossing said creek, to an ash and sugar tree; thence North 55° East 160 poles to a corner; thence South 35° East 200 poles, including his improvement, to the beginning; containing in the whole two hundred acres, be the same more or less, it being a headright of land granted by the State to Thomas Gibbs.

And we, the above-mentioned heirs, being the only heirs of Thomas Gibbs, deceased, and we, the heirs present, together with Samuel Gibbs, are authorized, and that by a power of attorney, to act for the absent William and Robert Gibbs, do hereby convey the same.

Together with all woods, ways, waters, profits, advantages, and hereditaments whatsoever, to have and to hold the said land and premises, with all its appurtenances, unto the said Philip Jones, his heirs and assigns forever; and we do covenant and agree to warrant and defend the said premises against ourselves and heirs, and against all and every other person or persons whatsoever claiming or to claim the same, from any just or equitable right therein.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals this day above written.

Sealed and delivered in Presence of
John Howell
Mary Howell
Casandra Jones

Samuel Gibbs (seal)
John Gibbs (seal)
Hugh Gibbs (seal)
Samuel Gibbs attorney in fact
for William Gibbs (seal)
Samuel Gibbs attorney in fact Robert Gibbs (seal)

The 1808 power of attorney associated with Thomas Gibbs has long been a source of confusion in earlier interpretations of the Gibbs family. At first reading, the structure and wording of the document could be read as implying that Thomas stood in a paternal role to Samuel and his brothers John, Hugh, Robert, and William, as the men are listed together as heirs without an immediate explanation of their exact relationships. When viewed in isolation and without earlier context, this ambiguity has contributed to the mistaken belief that Thomas Gibbs was the father of Samuel and his brothers.

COURT FILING Hopkins County, KY 1816

These all now by their parents that we William & Robert Gibbs of the County of Mercer & State of Kentucky have ordained constituted and appointed Matthew Adams of Hopkins County State of Kentucky our true and lawful Attorney for us and in our names and stead to apply for and attend to the division of the lands of our mother Elizabeth Gibbs deceased and of Thomas Gibbs our deceased brother all of which lands lie in Logan County State aforesaid on the waters of Muddy River and in which we have an interest and in case it should be necessary to secure our dividends in said lands that suit or suits at law should be instituted we hereby authorize and empower our said Attorney to institute and in all things to prosecute the same or to decide and settle any dispute which may arise on our behalf relative to said land by arbitration or compromise and further authorize and empower our said Attorney to make sale of said land (when obtained) either at public or private sale and when so sold to convey the same to the purchaser or purchasers by deed containing clauses of such warranty as to him may appear right and proper hereby giving our said Attorney full power

(417) Authority to do all and every act and do those and things in the premises that we could or might do were we to attend the same in person; hereby ratifying and confirming whatever our said Attorney shall legally do in the premises in as full and effectual manner as if done by ourselves to testify whereof we have hereunto set our names and affixed our seals this 8th day of September 1816
Wm Gibbs (seal)
Robt Gibbs (seal)
State of Kentucky
Hopkins County
This Letter of Attorney was this day solemnly read before me by William Gibbs Clerk of the Peace for said County and by William Gibbs Clerk of the Peace and by Robert Gibbs and they both acknowledged that the said Letter of Attorney is truly recorded in my Office I have hereunto subscribed my name this 8th day of September 1816
Jm Proctor

Know all men by these presents that we, William & Robert Gibbs of the County of Mercer & State of Kentucky, have ordained, constituted and appointed Matthew Adams of Hopkins County, State of Kentucky, our true and lawful Attorney for us and in our names and stead to apply for and attend to the division of the lands of our mother, Elizabeth Gibbs, deceased, and of Thomas Gibbs, our deceased brother, all of which lands lie in Logan County, State aforesaid, on the waters of Muddy River, and in which we have an interest.

And in case it should be necessary to secure our dividends in said lands, that suit or suits at law should be instituted, we hereby authorize and empower our said attorney to institute and in all things to prosecute the same, or to decide and settle any dispute which may arise on our behalf relative to said land by arbitration or compromise, and further authorize and empower our said attorney to make sale of said land (when obtained) either at public or private sale, and when so sold to convey the same to the purchaser or purchasers by deed containing such covenants of such warranty as to him may appear right and proper.

Hereby giving and granting unto our said attorney full power and authority to do all and every act and acts, matters and things in the premises that we could or might do were we to attend the same in person; hereby ratifying and confirming whatever our said attorney shall legally do in the premises in as full and effectual manner as if we by ourselves.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names and affixed our seals this 9th day of September, 1816.

Wm Gibbs (seal)
Robt Gibbs (seal)

State of Kentucky
Hopkins County

A related court record provides the necessary clarification. Rather than identifying Thomas as the father of the named heirs, the document confirms that Thomas Gibbs was himself a deceased brother, and that their mother—Elizabeth—was also deceased at the time of the transaction. This record resolves the ambiguity created by the 1808 power of attorney and confirms that Samuel, John, Hugh, Robert, and William were siblings, not children of Thomas. When read alongside the 1776 will of Robert Gibbs Sr., the family structure becomes both consistent and unambiguous.

WILL OF ROBERT GIBBS
Westmorland PA, 1776

Robert Gibbs
12 Will

In the Name of God Amen the 8th day of March 1776 I Robert Gibb of Westmoreland County and township of Fairfield yeoman, being sick and weak in Body But of perfect Mind and Memory thanks be to God therefore calling to mind the mortality of my Body, and knowing it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, I give, demise, and dispose of my effects in the following Manner, I give and bequeath to my wife Elizabeth one third part of my Moveable estate, And to my daughter Agnes one bed & bed close And to my son Hugh Gibbs one young Bay Horse, and saddle And each of my sons Hugh John, Samuel, Thomas, William Gibbs they are to be raised and schooled out of the estate and then to share and share alike, and the lands to be disposed of as my Executors shall think proper, And lastly I Nominate, constitute and appoint my wife Elizabeth Gibb and my son Hugh Gibbs Executors of this my last Will and testament And I do hereby revoke all former Wills by me at any time heretofore made and do make this my last Will, in Witness whereof I hereunto set my hand & seal this 8th day of March 1776.

Witness Present William McCune, David Wilson

Robert Gibb Seal

W^m McCune & David Wilson the Witnesses Sworn & Executors Sworn this 20th day of April 1776

Nich. Houffnagle

In the name of God amen the 8th day of March 1776 I, Robert Gibb, of Westmoreland County and township of Fairfield, yeoman, being sick and weak in body but of perfect mind and memory thanks be to God therefore calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing it is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain this my last will and testament. I give, demise and dispose of my effects in the following manner. I give and bequest to my wife Elizabeth one third part of my moveable estate and to my daughter Agnes one bed & bed close [sic] and to my son Hugh Gibbs one young bay horse and saddle and each of my sons Hugh, John, Samuel, Thomas, William Gibbs they are to be raised and schooled out of the estate and then to share and share alike and the lands to be disposed of as my executors shall think proper. And lastly I nominate, constitute and appoint my wife Elizabeth Gibb and my son Hugh Gibb executors of this my last will and testament and I do hereby revoke all former wills by me at any time heretofore made and do make this last will in witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and seal this 8th day of March 1776

Robert Gibbs (seal)

The will of Robert Gibbs Sr., executed in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, in 1776, is the cornerstone document for understanding the Gibbs family's structure and origins. Unlike later records that can be ambiguous when read in isolation, this will explicitly names Samuel Gibbs and his brothers and establishes their relationship to their parents at a fixed moment in time. It confirms that Samuel was born in pre-Revolutionary Pennsylvania and provides the framework necessary to correctly interpret all subsequent Kentucky land and court records. Read alongside the surrounding documents, the will resolves earlier misconceptions and anchors the Gibbs family's migration from Pennsylvania into Kentucky within a documented and coherent family narrative.

POWER OF ATTORNEY
Christian County, Kentucky 1807

in my Office and hereunto set my hand the 23rd day of September 1816.

Gibbs Know all men by these presents that we William Robert & Hugh Gibbs
doth hereby nominate constitute and appoint Samuel Gibbs of Chris-
tian County and State of Kentucky to be our lawfull attorney to sell
and convey our legal shares of two tracts of land in Logan County
each containing of two hundred acres, one being the property of Elizabeth
Gibbs deceased laying on Muddy river adjoining the lands of William
McMullen on the one side and the land formerly the property of William
McEwing on the other side and the other two hundred acres laying on
Clifty a branch of the Wolf Lick located and surveyed and patented in
the name of Thomas Gibbs deceased which land we do hereby authorize
to each tract of land and make deed to the same as though
we were personally present and we do hereby ratify and confirm
whatssoever he may do as touching the premises in witness our
hand and seals this 26th day of Janry 1807

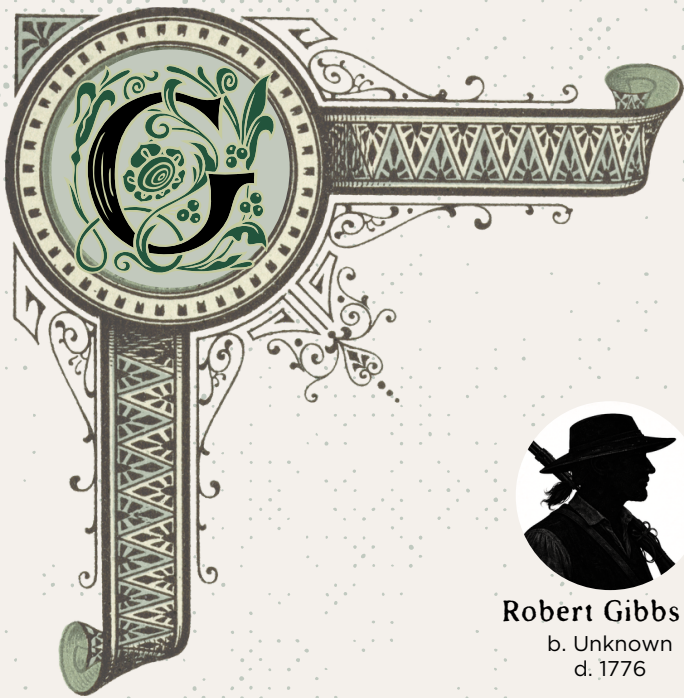
Test Thomas Gibbs
Robert Gibbs
Hugh Gibbs

Wm Gibbs (Seal)
Robert Gibbs (Seal)
Hugh Gibbs (Seal)

Know all men by these presents that we William, Robert & Hugh Gibbs doth hereby nominate constitute and appoint Samuel Gibbs of Christian County and State of Kentucky to be our lawfull attorney to sell and convey our legal shares of two tracts of land in Logan County each containing of two hundred acres, one being the property of Elizabeth Gibbs deceased laying on Muddy River adjoining the lands of William McMullen on the one side and the land formerly the property of William McEwing on the other side and the other two hundred acres laying on Clifty a branch of the Wolf Lick located and surveyed and patented in the name of Thomas Gibbs deceased which land we do hereby authorize & empower our lawful attorney to convey our different shares to each tract of land and make deed to the same as though we were personally present and we do hereby ratify and confirm what so ever he may do as touching the premises in witness our hand and seals this 26th day of Janry 1807

Wm Gibbs (Seal)
Robert Gibbs (Seal)
Hugh Gibbs (Seal)

While this record does not introduce new information beyond what is documented elsewhere, it provides important corroboration of the established family relationships among Elizabeth and her sons Samuel, William, Robert, and Hugh. It is also fully consistent with other Kentucky records placing Samuel Gibbs along Wolf Lick Creek in what was then Logan County with his wife, Martha "Patsy" Logan. Together, these documents reinforce a cohesive narrative that links the Pennsylvania origins of the Gibbs family to their settlement in Kentucky, without contradiction or reliance on speculative assumptions.



Robert Gibbs Sr
b. Unknown
d. 1776



Elizabeth Hinkston
b. Unknown
d. Bef 1816



John Hiram Gibbs
b. Jul 29 1764
d. Mar 26 1844



Samuel Gibbs
b. abt 1767
d. 1835
m. Martha Logan
& Mary Turner



William Gibbs
b. abt 1770
d. Unknown



Robert Gibbs Jr
b. abt 1760
d. abt 1808



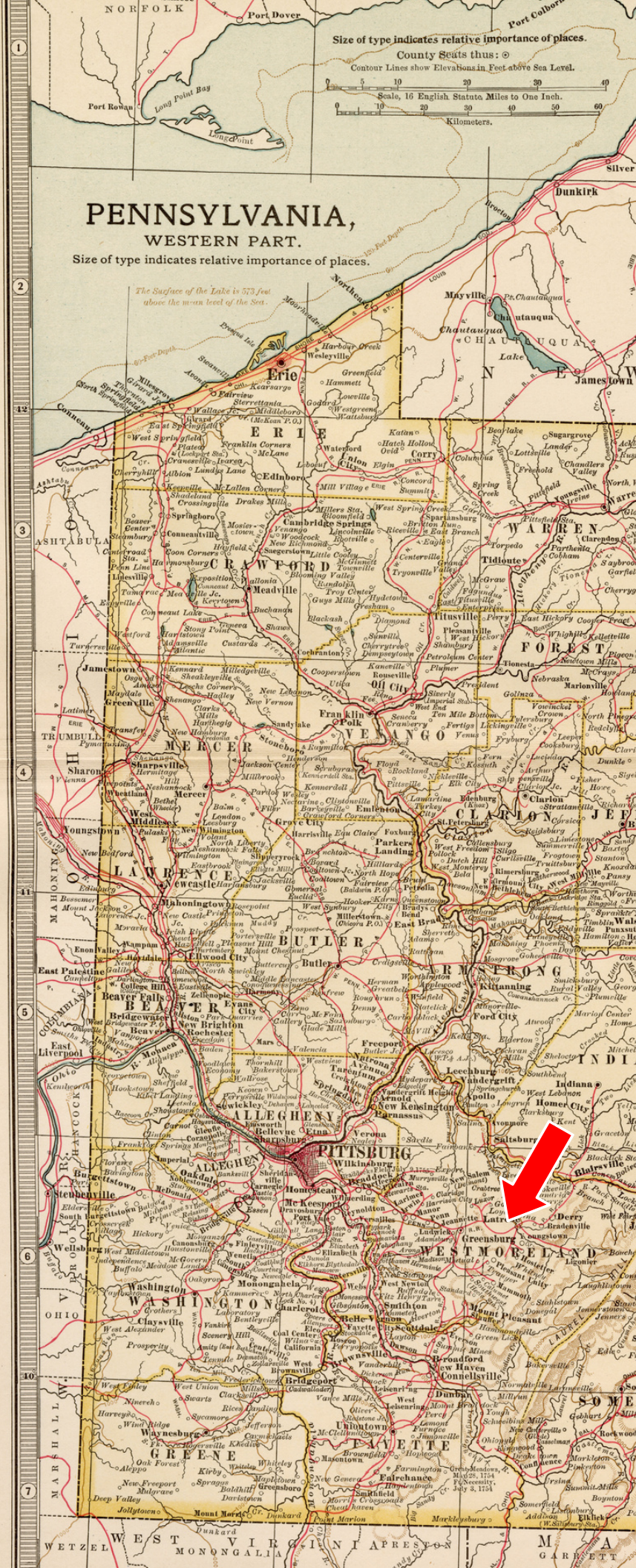
Hugh Gibbs
b. abt 1751
d. 1817



Thomas Gibbs
b. abt 1754
d. abt 1807



Agnes Gibbs
b. abt 1757
d. abt 1821



Understanding Samuel's Pennsylvania background also requires understanding the world he left behind. During the Revolutionary era, Westmoreland County stood at the far western edge of colonial settlement—a contested borderland shaped by overlapping land claims, militia activity, and unresolved sovereignty disputes between Pennsylvania and Virginia. Fort Pitt guarded access to the Ohio Valley, while frontier families lived amid political uncertainty, military tension, and the lingering effects of earlier conflicts.

In the early 1790s, the region became the epicenter of the Whiskey Rebellion. Small-scale farmers depended on distillation for survival, and the 1791 federal excise tax on spirits struck directly at that economic foundation. Resistance escalated rapidly in the same communities where the Gibbs family lived and farmed. Although no evidence places Samuel in acts of rebellion, the upheaval formed the backdrop of his final years in Pennsylvania.

Migration offered an alternative. Samuel had already reached Kentucky by 1792, suggesting that the family's reassessment of opportunity began before the rebellion's violent climax. What followed was not a sudden flight, but a deliberate, kin-based relocation. In August 1796, Elizabeth Gibbs purchased land along the Muddy River. Within days, Samuel and several brothers entered 200-acre tracts along Wolf Lick Fork and the Clifty Rivers. Additional family purchases followed in 1798. These coordinated transactions reflect intention and planning—an effort to reestablish stability, independence, and continuity on a new frontier.

Dates of Receiving Lists	Persons Names Chargeable with the Tax	Names of White Male Inhabitants above 21	Of Whites Total	Of Blacks Total	Of Whites Total	Of Blacks Total	Land	Slaves	Notes of Covering Slaves	Excise Dues	Proportion Sum
Oct ^r 8	Furney Nicholas	Nicholas Furney	-	-	-	1	7	-	-	-	0 25
Sept 26	Foreman David	David Foreman	1	-	-	3	10	-	-	-	0 40
Oct 19	Ford William	William Ford	2	16	6	11	38	150	-	-	2 12 0
Sept 22	Falin Samuel	Samuel Falin	-	-	-	3	6	100	-	-	0 52
Oct 5	Falin Andrew	Andrew Falin	-	1	-	4	12	100	-	-	0 93
Sept 14	Falin John	John Falin	-	1	-	2	25	350	-	-	1 07
14	Followay Marquis	Marquis Followay	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	0 02

Lincoln County, Kentucky Tax Records 1792

The earliest record for Samuel in the Lincoln County, Kentucky appears in the tax lists dated September 1792. This entry follows closely on the heels of his marriage to Martha Logan, which took place approximately two months earlier. The timing suggests that the land associated with this tax assessment may have been acquired in connection with his marriage, possibly as a wedding gift or an advancement on his inheritance.

Dec ^r	4	Green Willis	Willis Green	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 8 9
Nov ^r	3	Givins John	John Givins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0 1 10
Sept	12	Givins Sam ^l	Samuel Givins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0 5 9
Oct	19	Givins John	John Givins	-	-	-	4	5	-	-	-	0 3 11
Sept	26	Gaston Alexander	Alexander Gaston	-	-	-	6	14	-	-	-	0 7 6
	26	Gilmore James	James Gilmore	-	-	-	7	20	1,020	1 0 8	0 1 18 1	
	25	Giff William	William Giff	-	-	-	2	11	-	-	-	0 4 1
	25	Givins Robert	Robert Givins	-	-	-	5	18	100	-	-	0 9 10
Oct	26	Givins James	James Givins	-	-	-	5	19	-	-	-	0 6 8
	9	Gibbs Samuel	Samuel Gibbs	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	2 2 9
	26	Gilmour Alex ^r	Alexander Gilmour	-	-	-	2	2	100	-	-	0 3 10
	26	Gordon Jacob	Jacob Gordon	-	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	0 3 10
Sept	25	Givins George	George Givins	2	4	1	13	37	900	-	-	2 3 11
	26	Gilmore James	James Gilmore	-	-	-	6	20	-	-	-	0 9 0
Oct	3	Gay Thomas	Thomas Gay	-	-	-	5	26	200	-	-	2 13 10
	6	Gibbsby James	James Gibbsby	-	2	1	3	16	-	-	-	0 10 0
Sept	12	Givins Samuel	Samuel Givins Jr.	-	-	-	3	2	140	-	-	0 5 4
	12	Givins James	James Givins Jr.	-	-	-	3	9	150	-	-	0 7 3
	12	Givins Robert	Robert Givins	-	1	1	6	22	300	-	-	1 16 6
	12	Givins James	James Givins	2	-	5	2	8	296	-	-	1 8 9

LOGAN COUNTY COURT.

REMARKS.	Book.	Page.	NAME.	Acres.	Water Course.	Date of Survey.	REMARKS.
	A	1	Gorn, Cladden	200			In the Barrens.
		32	Grathouse, John	200	Dry Creek	Aug 2, 1796.	Big Barren.
		49	Grayson, Reuben	200	Sinking Fork	Sep 7, 1796.	W. Whippoorwill.
		55	Gilham, William	200	Big Whippoorwill	Sep 8, 1796.	
		65	Gilmore, Joseph	100	Rd River	Aug 11, 1796.	River Line.
		71	Guffee, Alexander	200	Big Muddy Creek	Sep 13, 1796.	
		72	Same	200	Brushy Lick	Sep 16, 1796.	
		80	Gorham, Thomas	200	Little Whippoorwill	Sep 5, 1796.	
		73	Same	200	Elk Spring	Oct 6, 1796.	# 400 or 500 poles from.
		76	Same	200	On State line	Oct 8, 1796.	
		79	Green, James	200	Clear Fork	July 29, 1796.	# Of Gaspar's
		96	Gorden, Samuel	200	Dry Fork	Aug 23, 1796.	Crust line. W. Whippoorwill.
		121	Gorn, Henry	150	Salt Lick Creek	Oct 22, 1796.	
		129	Gibbs, Samuel	200	Wolf Lick Fork	Aug 25, 1796.	
		130	Graham, David	200	Same	Aug 21, 1796.	
		131	Graham, James	200	Same	Aug 25, 1796.	
		159	Green, Jesse	200	Gaspar's	Sep 7, 1796.	
		159	Gibbs, Elizabeth	200	Muddy	Aug 22, 1796.	
		160	Gibbs, Robert	200	Cifty	Aug 25, 1796.	
		161	Graves, Philip	200	Dry Fork	Oct 16, 1796.	* Little Whippoorwill.
		161	Gibbs, Thomas	200	Cifty	Aug 25, 1796.	Creek bed.
		178	Goodnight, John & Michael	200	Little Whippoorwill	Sep 2, 1796.	Creek line & bed.
		195	Gipson, Jordan	200	Rock house Fork	Sep 22, 1796.	
		208	Gilham, Hugh	200	Grassy Creek		

171 Gibbs, William 200 Muddy River Dec 3, 1798. River Line

89 Gibbs, John 187 Muddy River Dec 3, 1798.

In August 1796, Elizabeth and three of her sons—Samuel, Robert, and Thomas—acquired land in what was then Logan County, Kentucky. Two years later, in December 1798, William and John also purchased land in Logan County. It then became Christian County, formed just ten days after William and John's purchase. This land would ultimately become part of what is today Todd County when it was formed in 1819.

SAMUEL GIBBS & MARTHA LOGAN
MARRIAGE BOND

I bear by Certify that I am a good you
shold Richard Lumber for my daughter
Martha Logan and Samuel Gibbs given
under my hand this the 11th day of
July 1792.
Martha Logan

SAMUEL GIBBS & MARTHA LOGAN MARRIAGE BOND

Know all men by there presents that we Samuel Gibbs and Charles Logan are held firmly bound unto his Excellency the governor of Virginia in the sum of 50 pounds current money to the payment whereof to be made to the said governor and his successors we bond our selves our heirs and family by the presents sealed with our seals and dated this 11th day of July 1792.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas there is a marriage wholly intended to be solemnized between the above bound Samuel Gibbs and Martha Logan for which a license has issued. Now if there be no lawful to obstruct the said marriage then this obligation to be void or else to remain in in full force.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of

Saml Gibbs (SEAL)
Charles Logan (SEAL)

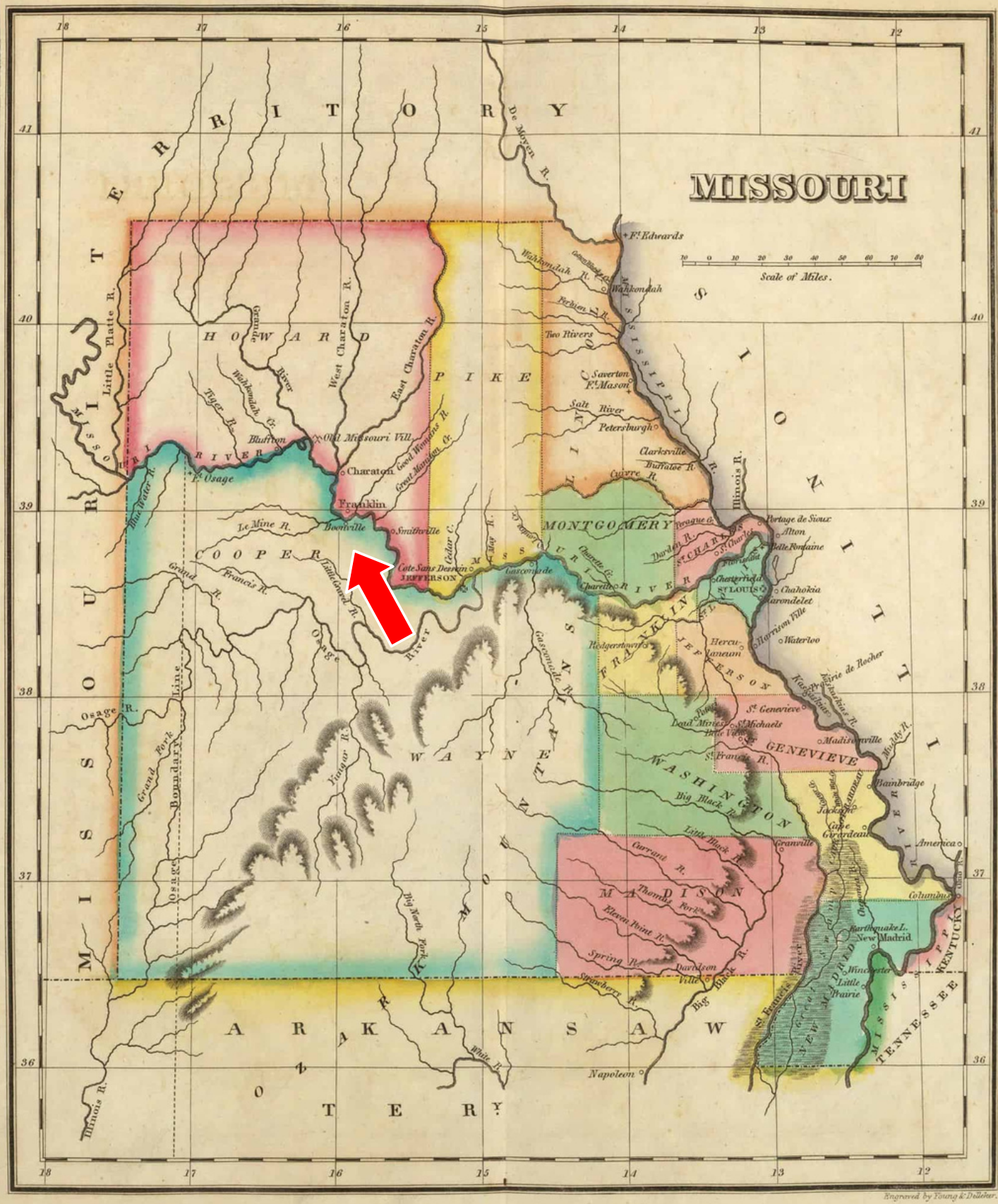
I hear by certify that I am and said you should issue license for my daughter Martha Logan and Samuel Gibbs given under my hand this the 11th day of July 1792

Martha Logan

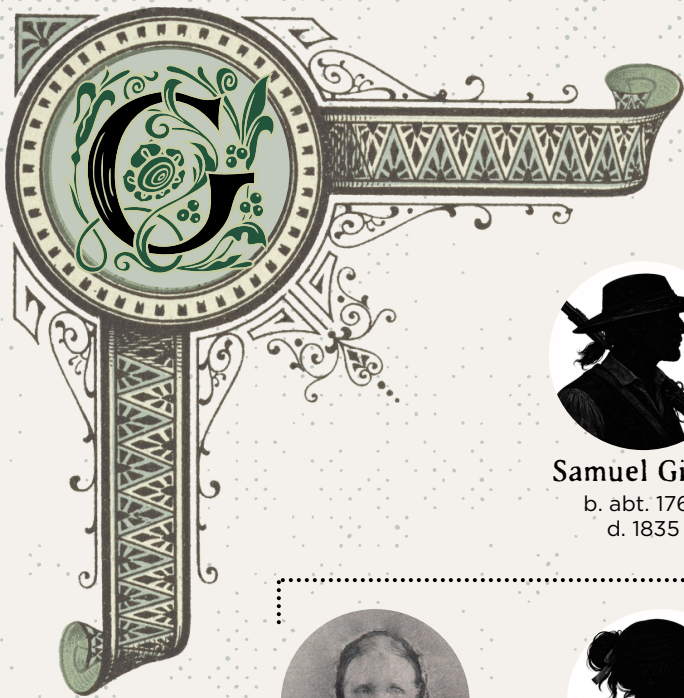


Charles Logan, the brother of Martha Logan, signed the marriage bond on her behalf due to the prior death of their father.

Their mother, Martha, provided formal consent for the marriage.



As Samuel acquired land farther west, his holdings were recorded in what was then Cooper County, Missouri. At the time, Cooper County encompassed a vast frontier region that was later subdivided into smaller counties, including Howard and Pettis, where additional records pertaining to Samuel Gibbs are subsequently found.



Samuel Gibbs

b. abt. 1767
d. 1835



Martha Logan

b. abt. 1767
d. abt 1822



Parthenia Gibbs

b. Nov 17 1793
d. Apr 14 1872
m. Samuel Hinch &
Jacob Ish



Elizabeth Gibbs

b. abt. 1797
d. 1850
m.



Margaret L. Gibbs

b. abt 1798
d. Nov 15 1876
m. Mannen Durren



Thomas A. Gibbs

b. Apr 14 1800
d. Jun 14 1879
m. Elizabeth Gibson



Cornelious Gibbs

b. Oct 12 1804
d. Sep 18 1882



Samuel Gibbs

b. abt. 1767
d. 1835



Mary Turner

b. abt. 1793
d. Dec 24 1856



Eleanor T. Gibbs

b. 1822
d. 1888
m. William H. Witt



Talton T. Gibbs

b. Mar 18 1825
d. Jun 24 1888
m. Lucretia Ann Ford



Mary H. Gibbs

b. 22 Feb 1827
d. Nov 4 1895
m. James Bouton



Betsy H. Gibbs

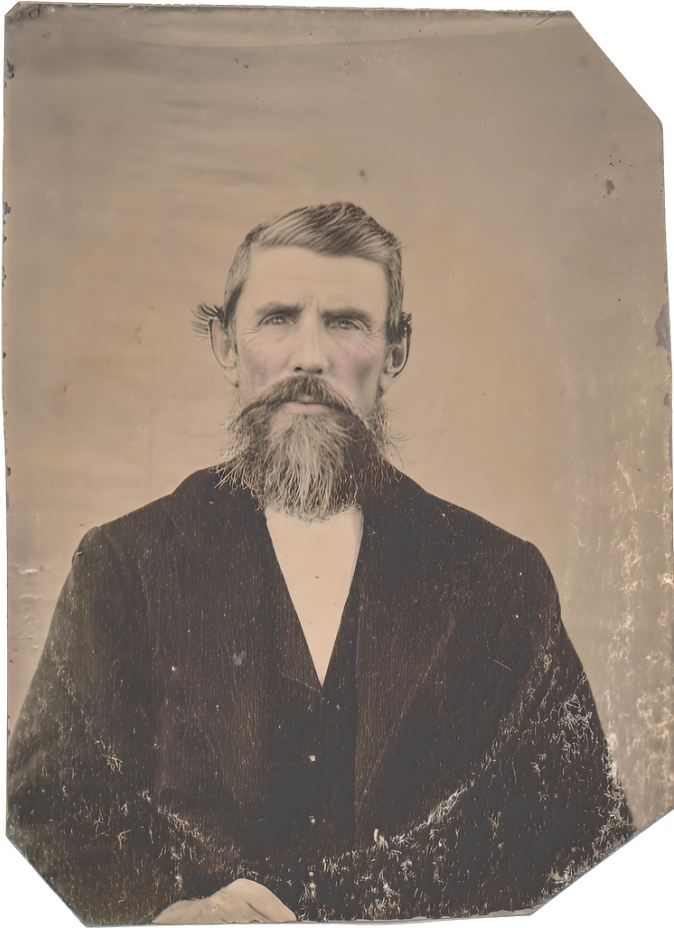
b. abt 1828
d. 1879
m. Edmond B. Rathbon



John T. Gibbs

b. 1831
d. Jan 1 1865
m. Alice P. Mayhew

Other Descendants of
Robert Gibbs Sr.



James Monroe "Jimmy" Gibbs
Confederate Veteran
Grandson of John Hiram Gibbs

Born: 18 SEP 1844
Logan County, KY

Died 6 JUL 1919
Nacogdoches County, TX

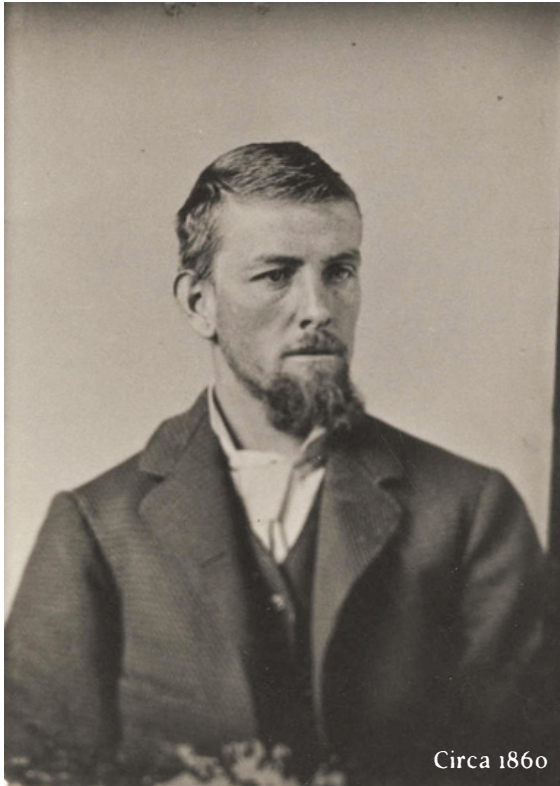
George Kenner Gibbs
Son of James M. "Jimmy" Gibbs

WOODVILLE EDITOR IS SHOT TO DEATH

Beaumont, Texas - Aug. 2 (AP) George K. Gibbs, 55, publisher of the Tyler County Optimist was shot to death in his printing plant at Woodville, Tyler County, Sunday afternoon. J. B. Glover, 30 a Deputy Sheriff, went to the home of the Sheriff W. A. Ferguson, to surrender in connection with the shooting. The shooting was the outgrowth of a fight between two sons of Gibbs and two other boys on a street. One of the Gibbs boys, witnesses say, fired a pistol from the printing office at the boys and then went home and got his father. Gibbs is survived by his wife and two sons.

Dallas Morning News
August 3, 1931, Section I, Page 1





Circa 1860



Circa 1875

**Talton Turner Gibbs, Veteran of the Mexican-American War, half brother of Cornelius Gibbs, son of Samuel Gibbs and Mary Turner and early pioneer of Tehama, California
1825 - 1888**

Photos Courtesy of CSU Chico Digital Collections



Anna Louise "Annie" Gibbs daughter of Talton Turner Gibbs & Lucretia Ann Ford with husband John Bogard

John Bogard was Sherriff of Red Bluff, California and was killed during a train robbery in March 1895



**Samuel Ford Gibbs, son of Talton Turner Gibbs and Lucretia Ann Ford
1856 - 1935**

SCHEDULE of the whole number of Persons within the District allotted to

Truett

Name of County, City, Ward, Township, Parish, Precinct, Hundred, or District.	NAMES or HEADS OF FAMILIES.	FREE WHITE PERSONS, (INCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES.)																								FREE COLORED PERSONS, (INCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES.)																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
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		Under five years of age.	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50	50 to 55	55 to 60	60 to 65	65 to 70	70 to 75	75 to 80	80 to 85	85 to 90	90 to 95	95 to 100	100 to 105	105 to 110	110 to 115	115 to 120	120 to 125	125 to 130	130 to 135	135 to 140	140 to 145	145 to 150	150 to 155	155 to 160	160 to 165	165 to 170	170 to 175	175 to 180	180 to 185	185 to 190	190 to 195	195 to 200	200 to 205	205 to 210	210 to 215	215 to 220	220 to 225	225 to 230	230 to 235	235 to 240	240 to 245	245 to 250	250 to 255	255 to 260	260 to 265	265 to 270	270 to 275	275 to 280	280 to 285	285 to 290	290 to 295	295 to 300	300 to 305	305 to 310	310 to 315	315 to 320	320 to 325	325 to 330	330 to 335	335 to 340	340 to 345	345 to 350	350 to 355	355 to 360	360 to 365	365 to 370	370 to 375	375 to 380	380 to 385	385 to 390	390 to 395	395 to 400	400 to 405	405 to 410	410 to 415	415 to 420	420 to 425	425 to 430	430 to 435	435 to 440	440 to 445	445 to 450	450 to 455	455 to 460	460 to 465	465 to 470	470 to 475	475 to 480	480 to 485	485 to 490	490 to 495	495 to 500	500 to 505	505 to 510	510 to 515	515 to 520	520 to 525	525 to 530	530 to 535	535 to 540	540 to 545	545 to 550	550 to 555	555 to 560	560 to 565	565 to 570	570 to 575	575 to 580	580 to 585	585 to 590	590 to 595	595 to 600	600 to 605	605 to 610	610 to 615	615 to 620	620 to 625	625 to 630	630 to 635	635 to 640	640 to 645	645 to 650	650 to 655	655 to 660	660 to 665	665 to 670	670 to 675	675 to 680	680 to 685	685 to 690	690 to 695	695 to 700	700 to 705	705 to 710	710 to 715	715 to 720	720 to 725	725 to 730	730 to 735	735 to 740	740 to 745	745 to 750	750 to 755	755 to 760	760 to 765	765 to 770	770 to 775	775 to 780	780 to 785	785 to 790	790 to 795	795 to 800	800 to 805	805 to 810	810 to 815	815 to 820	820 to 825	825 to 830	830 to 835	835 to 840	840 to 845	845 to 850	850 to 855	855 to 860	860 to 865	865 to 870	870 to 875	875 to 880	880 to 885	885 to 890	890 to 895	895 to 900	900 to 905	905 to 910	910 to 915	915 to 920	920 to 925	925 to 930	930 to 935	935 to 940	940 to 945	945 to 950	950 to 955	955 to 960	960 to 965	965 to 970	970 to 975	975 to 980	980 to 985	985 to 990	990 to 995	995 to 1000	1000 to 1005	1005 to 1010	1010 to 1015	1015 to 1020	1020 to 1025	1025 to 1030	1030 to 1035	1035 to 1040	1040 to 1045	1045 to 1050	1050 to 1055	1055 to 1060	1060 to 1065	1065 to 1070	1070 to 1075	1075 to 1080	1080 to 1085	1085 to 1090	1090 to 1095	1095 to 1100	1100 to 1105	1105 to 1110	1110 to 1115	1115 to 1120	1120 to 1125	1125 to 1130	1130 to 1135	1135 to 1140	1140 to 1145	1145 to 1150	1150 to 1155	1155 to 1160	1160 to 1165	1165 to 1170	1170 to 1175	1175 to 1180	1180 to 1185	1185 to 1190	1190 to 1195	1195 to 1200	1200 to 1205	1205 to 1210	1210 to 1215	1215 to 1220	1220 to 1225	1225 to 1230	1230 to 1235	1235 to 1240	1240 to 1245	1245 to 1250	1250 to 1255	1255 to 1260	1260 to 1265	1265 to 1270	1270 to 1275	1275 to 1280	1280 to 1285	1285 to 1290	1290 to 1295	1295 to 1300	1300 to 1305	1305 to 1310	1310 to 1315	1315 to 1320	1320 to 1325	1325 to 1330	1330 to 1335	1335 to 1340	1340 to 1345	1345 to 1350	1350 to 1355	1355 to 1360	1360 to 1365	1365 to 1370	1370 to 1375	1375 to 1380	1380 to 1385	1385 to 1390	1390 to 1395	1395 to 1400	1400 to 1405	1405 to 1410	1410 to 1415	1415 to 1420	1420 to 1425	1425 to 1430	1430 to 1435	1435 to 1440	1440 to 1445	1445 to 1450	1450 to 1455	1455 to 1460	1460 to 1465	1465 to 1470	1470 to 1475	1475 to 1480	1480 to 1485	1485 to 1490	1490 to 1495	1495 to 1500	1500 to 1505	1505 to 1510	1510 to 1515	1515 to 1520	1520 to 1525	1525 to 1530	1530 to 1535	1535 to 1540	1540 to 1545	1545 to 1550	1550 to 1555	1555 to 1560	1560 to 1565	1565 to 1570	1570 to 1575	1575 to 1580	1580 to 1585	1585 to 1590	1590 to 1595	1595 to 1600	1600 to 1605	1605 to 1610	1610 to 1615	1615 to 1620	1620 to 1625	1625 to 1630	1630 to 1635	1635 to 1640	1640 to 1645	1645 to 1650	1650 to 1655	1655 to 1660	1660 to 1665	1665 to 1670	1670 to 1675	1675 to 1680	1680 to 1685	1685 to 1690	1690 to 1695	1695 to 1700	1700 to 1705	1705 to 1710	1710 to 1715	1715 to 1720	1720 to 1725	1725 to 1730	1730 to 1735	1735 to 1740	1740 to 1745	1745 to 1750	1750 to 1755	1755 to 1760	1760 to 1765	1765 to 1770	1770 to 1775	1775 to 1780	1780 to 1785	1785 to 1790	1790 to 1795	1795 to 1800	1800 to 1805	1805 to 1810	1810 to 1815	1815 to 1820	1820 to 1825	1825 to 1830	1830 to 1835	1835 to 1840	1840 to 1845	1845 to 1850	1850 to 1855	1855 to 1860	1860 to 1865	1865 to 1870	1870 to 1875	1875 to 1880	1880 to 1885	1885 to 1890	1890 to 1895	1895 to 1900	1900 to 1905	1905 to 1910	1910 to 1915	1915 to 1920	1920 to 1925	1925 to 1930	1930 to 1935	1935 to 1940	1940 to 1945	1945 to 1950	1950 to 1955	1955 to 1960	1960 to 1965	1965 to 1970	1970 to 1975	1975 to 1980	1980 to 1985	1985 to 1990	1990 to 1995	1995 to 2000	2000 to 2005	2005 to 2010	2010 to 2015	2015 to 2020	2020 to 2025	2025 to 2030	2030 to 2035	2035 to 2040	2040 to 2045	2045 to 2050	2050 to 2055	2055 to 2060	2060 to 2065	2065 to 2070	2070 to 2075	2075 to 2080	2080 to 2085	2085 to 2090	2090 to 2095	2095 to 2100	2100 to 2105	2105 to 2110	2110 to 2115	2115 to 2120	2120 to 2125	2125 to 2130	2130 to 2135	2135 to 2140	2140 to 2145	2145 to 2150	2150 to 2155	2155 to 2160	2160 to 2165	2165 to 2170	2170 to 2175	2175 to 2180	2180 to 2185	2185 to 2190	2190 to 2195	2195 to 2200	2200 to 2205	2205 to 2210	2210 to 2215	2215 to 2220	2220 to 2225	2225 to 2230	2230 to 2235	2235 to 2240	2240 to 2245	2245 to 2250	2250 to 2255	2255 to 2260	2260 to 2265	2265 to 2270	2270 to 2275	2275 to 2280	2280 to 2285	2285 to 2290	2290 to 2295	2295 to 2300	2300 to 2305	2305 to 2310	2310 to 2315	2315 to 2320	2320 to 2325	2325 to 2330	2330 to 2335	2335 to 2340	2340 to 2345	2345 to 2350	2350 to 2355	2355 to 2360	2360 to 2365	2365 to 2370	2370 to 2375	2375 to 2380	2380 to 2385	2385 to 2390	2390 to 2395	2395 to 2400	2400 to 2405	2405 to 2410	2410 to 2415	2415 to 2420	2420 to 2425	2425 to 2430	2430 to 2435	2435 to 2440	2440 to 2445	2445 to 2450	2450 to 2455	2455 to 2460	2460 to 2465	2465 to 2470	2470 to 2475	2475 to 2480	2480 to 2485	2485 to 2490	2490 to 2495	2495 to 2500	2500 to 2505	2505 to 2510	2510 to 2515	2515 to 2520	2520 to 2525	2525 to 2530	2530 to 2535	2535 to 2540	2540 to 2545	2545 to 2550	2550 to 2555	2555 to 2560	2560 to 2565	2565 to 2570	2570 to 2575	2575 to 2580	2580 to 2585	2585 to 2590	2590 to 2595	2595 to 2600	2600 to 2605	2605 to 2610	2610 to 2615	2615 to 2620	2620 to 2625	2625 to 2630	2630 to 2635	2635 to 2640	2640 to 2645	2645 to 2650	2650 to 2655	2655 to 2660	2660 to 2665	2665 to 2670	2670 to 2675	2675 to 2680	2680 to 2685	2685 to 2690	2690 to 2695	2695 to 2700	2700 to 2705	2705 to 2710	2710 to 2715	2715 to 2720	2720 to 2725	2725 to 2730	2730 to 2735	2735 to 2740	2740 to 2745	2745 to 2750	2750 to 2755	2755 to 2760	2760 to 2765	2765 to 2770	2770 to 2775	2775 to 2780	2780 to 2785	2785 to 2790	2790 to 2795	2795 to 2800	2800 to 2805	2805 to 2810	2810 to 2815	2815 to 2820	2820 to 2825	2825 to 2830	2830 to 2835	2835 to 2840	2840 to 2845	2845 to 2850	2850 to 2855	2855 to 2860	2860 to 2865	2865 to 2870	2870 to 2875	2875 to 2880	2880 to 2885	2885 to 2890	2890 to 2895	2895 to 2900	2900 to 2905	2905 to 2910	2910 to 2915	2915 to 2920	2920 to 2925	2925 to 2930	2930 to 2935	2935 to 2940	2940 to 2945	2945 to 2950	2950 to 2955	2955 to 2960	2960 to 2965	2965 to 2970	2970 to 2975	2975 to 2980	2980 to 2985	2985 to 2990	2990 to 2995	2995 to 3000	3000 to 3005	3005 to 3010	3010 to 3015	3015 to 3020	3020 to 3025	3025 to 3030	3030 to 3035	3035 to 3040	3040 to 3045	3045 to 3050	3050 to 3055	3055 to 3060	3060 to 3065	3065 to 3070	3070 to 3075	3075 to 3080	3080 to 3085	3085 to 3090	3090 to 3095	3095 to 3100	3100 to 3105	3105 to 3110	3110 to 3115	3115 to 3120	3120 to 3125	3125 to 3130	3130 to 3135	3135 to 3140	3140 to 3145	3145 to 3150	3150 to 3155	3155 to 3160	3160 to 3165	3165 to 3170	3170 to 3175	3175 to 3180	3180 to 3185	3185 to 3190	3190 to 3195	3195 to 3200	3200 to 3205	3205 to 3210	3210 to 3215	3215 to 3220	3220 to 3225	3225 to 3230	3230 to 3235	3235 to 3240	3240 to 3245	3245 to 3250	3250 to 3255	3255 to 3260	3260 to 3265	3265 to 3270	3270 to 3275	3275 to 3280	3280 to 3285	3285 to 3290	3290 to 3295	3295 to 3300	3300 to 3305	3305 to 3310	3310 to 3315	3315 to 3320	3320 to 3325	3325 to 3330	3330 to 3335	3335 to 3340	3340 to 3345	3345 to 3350	3350 to 3355	3355 to 3360	3360 to 3365	3365 to 3370	3370 to 3375	3375 to 3380	3380 to 3385	3385 to 3390	3390 to 3395	3395 to 3400	3400 to 3405	3405 to 3410	3410 to 3415	3415 to 3420	3420 to 3425	3425 to 3430	3430 to 3435	3435 to 3440	3440 to 3445	3445 to 3450	3450 to 3455	3455 to 3460	3460 to 3465	3465 to 3470	3470 to 3475	3475 to 3480	3480 to 3485	3485 to 3490	3490 to 3495	3495 to 3500	3500 to 3505	3505 to 3510	3510 to 3515	3515 to 3520	3520 to 3525	3525 to 3530	3530 to 3535	3535 to 3540	3540 to 3545	3545 to 3550	3550 to 3555	3555 to 3560	3560 to 3565	3565 to 3570	3570 to 3575	3575 to 3580	3580 to 3585	3585 to 3590	3590 to 3595	3595 to 3600	3600 to 3605	3605 to 3610	3610 to 3615	3615 to 3620	3620 to 3625	3625 to 3630	3630 to 3635	3635 to 3640	3640 to 3645	3645 to 3650	3650 to 3655	3655 to 3660	3660 to 3665	3665 to 3670	3670 to 3675	3675 to 3680	3680 to 3685	3685 to 3690	3690 to 3695	3695 to 3700	3700 to 3705	3705 to 3710	3710 to 3715	3715 to 3720	3720 to 3725	3725 to 3730	3730 to 3735	3735 to 3740	3740 to 3745	3745 to 3750	3750 to 3755	3755 to 3760	3760 to 3765	3765 to 3770	3770 to 3775	3775 to 3780	3780 to 3785	3785 to 3790	3790 to 3795	3795 to 3800	3800 to 3805	3805 to 3810	3810 to 3815	3815 to 3820	3820 to 3825	3825 to 3830	3830 to 3835	3835 to 3840	3840 to 3845	3845 to 3850	3850 to 3855	3855 to 3860	3860 to 3865	3865 to 3870	3870 to 3875	3875 to 3880	3880 to 3885	3885 to 3890	3890 to 3895	3895 to 3900	3900 to 3905	3905 to 3910	3910 to 3915	3915 to 3920	3920 to 3925	3925 to 3930	3930 to 3935	3935 to 3940	3940 to 3945	3945 to 3950	3950 to 3955	3955 to 3960	3960 to 3965	3965 to 3970	3970 to 3975	3975 to 3980	3980 to 3985	3985 to 3990	3990 to 3995	3995 to 4000	4000 to 4005	4005 to 4010	4010 to 4015	4015 to 4020	4020 to 4025	4025 to 4030	4030 to 4035	4035 to 4040	4040 to 4045	4045 to 4050	4050 to 4055	4055 to 4060	4060 to 4065	4065 to 4070	4070 to 4075	4075 to 4080	4080 to 4085	4085 to 4090	4090 to 4095	4095 to 4100	4100 to 4105	4105 to 4110	4110 to 4115	4115 to 4120	4120 to 4125	4125 to 4130	4130 to 4135	4135 to 4140	4140 to 4145	4145 to 4150	4150 to 4155	4155 to 4160	4160 to 4165	4165 to 4170	4170 to 4175	4175 to 4180	4180 to 4185	4185 to 4190	4190 to 4195	4195 to 4200	4200 to 4205	4205 to 4210	4210 to 4215	4215 to 4220

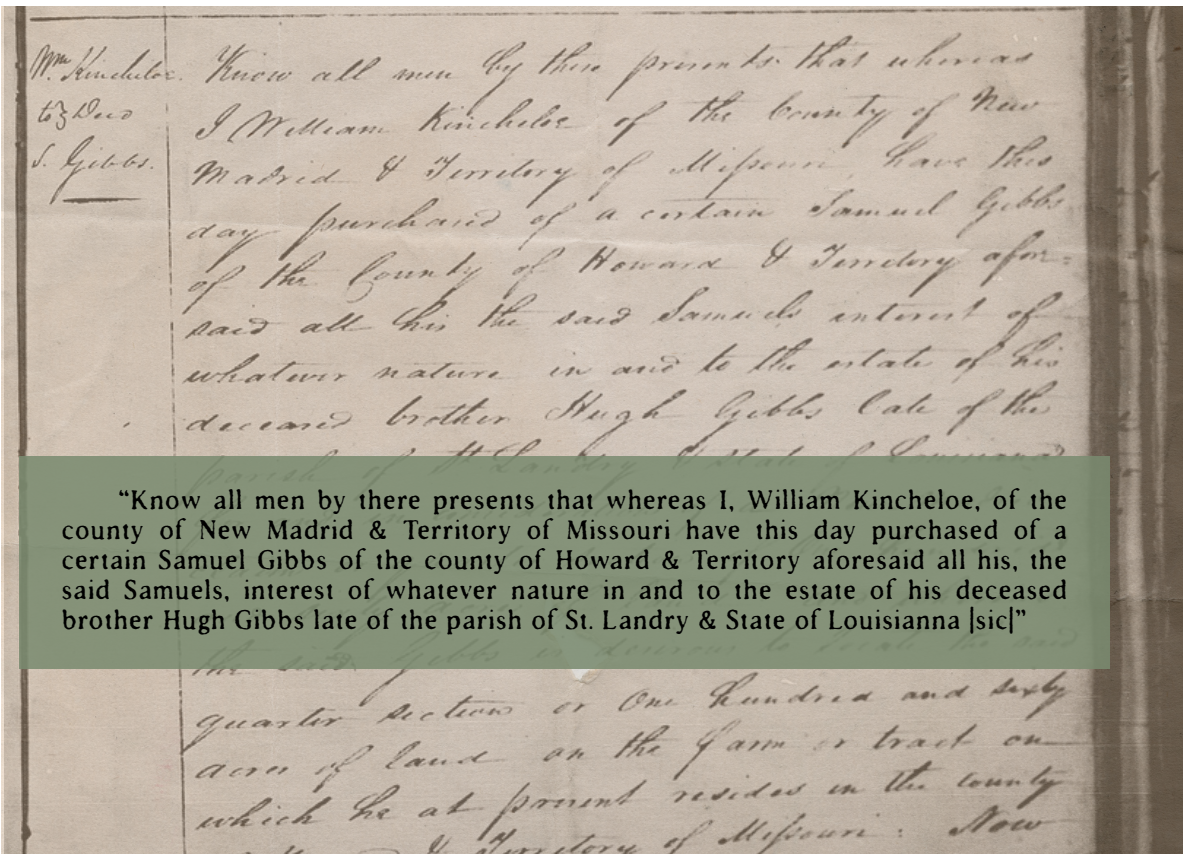
One record from Samuel's Missouri years complicates the narrative of his life. In the 1830 federal census for Cooper County, Missouri, Samuel Gibbs is recorded as a slaveholder, enumerated alongside his brother William. The schedule lists two enslaved females by age category, unnamed and undocumented beyond their existence. No additional records have yet been located to explain the circumstances under which they were held or what became of them.

This record does not negate the rest of Samuel's story, but it does deepen it. Genealogical research often reveals lives that are neither simple nor morally consistent. Samuel's history—of migration, land acquisition, family advancement, and frontier resilience—also includes participation in an institution that caused profound harm. Including this evidence is not an act of justification, but of honesty. An accurate family history requires acknowledging the full record and allowing the documents, in all their complexity, to speak for themselves.

Together, these records transform Samuel Gibbs from an isolated name in early Kentucky deeds into a documented individual with deep roots in colonial Pennsylvania, shaped by frontier culture and carried west by national change. Yet his life also reflects the moral contradictions embedded in early American expansion—contradictions that did not end with him, but were carried forward into the next generation.

Samuel's migration, land acquisition, and family advancement unfolded alongside participation in an institution that caused profound harm. That complexity did not remain confined to his own lifetime. It formed part of the inherited world in which his children were raised, including his son Cornelius, who would come of age in a nation increasingly divided over slavery, conscience, and belonging. The choices Cornelius later made—about community, religion, and moral alignment—cannot be understood without first recognizing the world he inherited from his father.

In this way, Samuel's story is not only one of movement and settlement, but of unresolved tension. It establishes the landscape—geographic, economic, and moral—into which Cornelius Gibbs stepped, a landscape that would force the next generation to confront questions their parents had often lived with but rarely resolved.



"Know all men by there presents that whereas I, William Kincheloe, of the county of New Madrid & Territory of Missouri have this day purchased of a certain Samuel Gibbs of the county of Howard & Territory aforesaid all his, the said Samuels, interest of whatever nature in and to the estate of his deceased brother Hugh Gibbs late of the parish of St. Landry & State of Louisiana [sic]"

Above: 1817 Land Record - a rare confirmation of a sibling - Samuel Gibbs selling his interest in the estate of his deceased brother Hugh Gibbs of Louisiana.

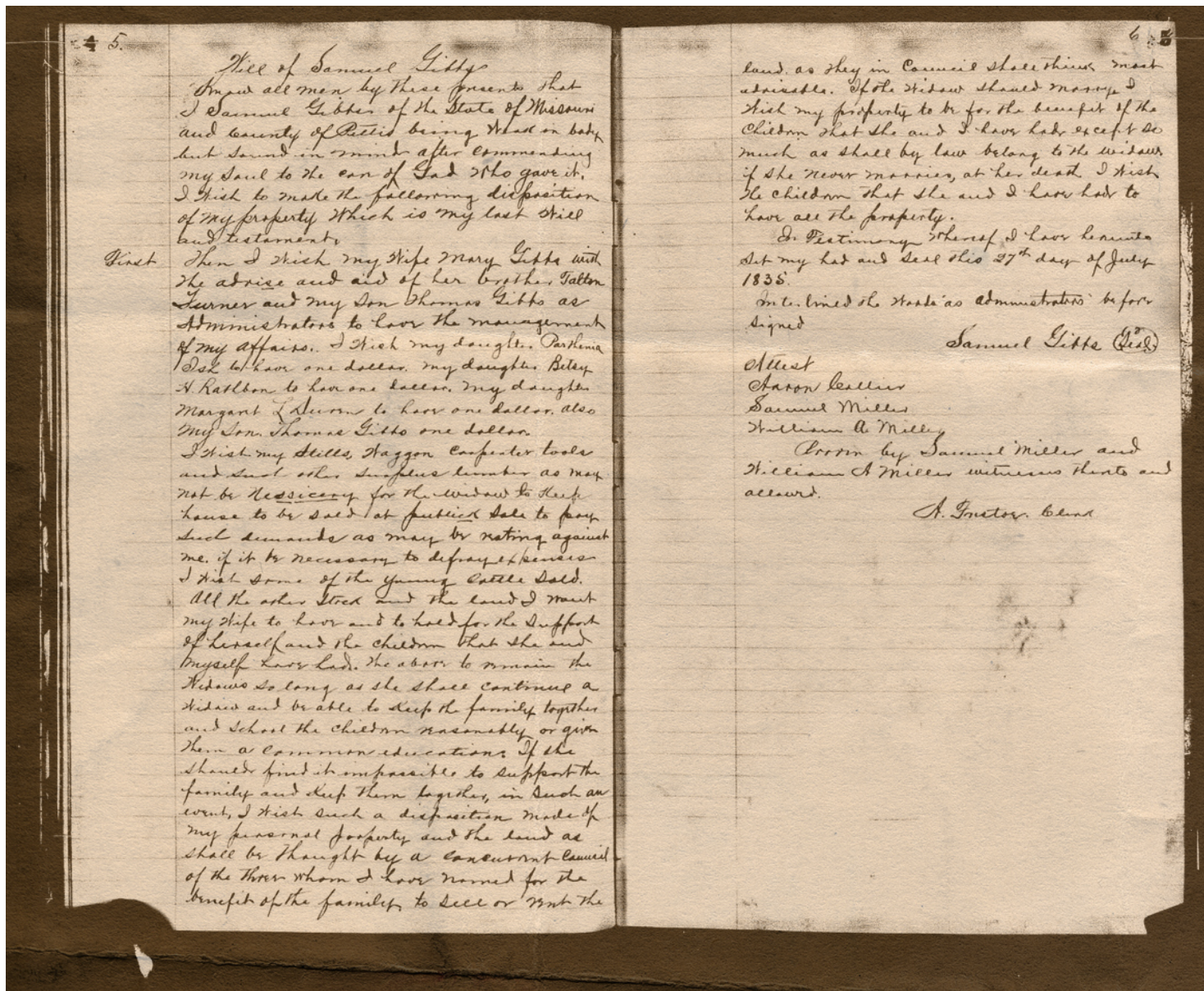


Mary Hooper Gibbs
Daughter of Samuel Gibbs & Mary Turner Gibbs
1827 - 1895



James Middleton Gibbs
Son of Talton Turner Gibbs,
Grandson of Samuel Gibbs
1861 - 1923

WILL OF SAMUEL GIBBS



Samuel Gibbs did not live to see the moral and political fractures that would eventually divide the nation—or even his own extended family—but the foundations of those divisions were already present in the world he helped shape. To understand his son, Cornelius Marion Gibbs, and the choices that would later distinguish him in Illinois, it is first necessary to understand Samuel: a man firmly of his time, whose life bridged Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Missouri, and whose legacy shaped the directions his children would follow—sometimes in continuity, and sometimes in contrast.

Will of Samuel Gibbs

Know all men by these presents that I Samuel Gibbs of the State of Missouri and County of Pettis, being weak in body but sound in mind after commending my soul to the ear of God who gave it, I wish to make the following disposition of my property which is my last Will and Testament.

First – then I wish wife Mary Gibbs with the advice and aid of her brother Talton Turner and my son Thomas Gibbs as administrators to have the management of my affairs. I wish my daughter Parthenia Ish to have one dollar. I wish my daughter Betsy H. Rathbon to have one dollar, my daughter Margaret L. Durren to have one dollar and also my son Thomas Gibbs one dollar.

I wish my stills, wagon, carpenter tools, and such other surplus lumber as may not be necessary for the widow to keep house, to be sold at public sale to pay such demands as may be outstanding against me. If it be necessary to defray expenses, I wish some of the young cattle sold.

All the other stock and the land I want my wife to have and to hold for the support of herself and the children that she and myself have had. The above to remain the widow's so long as she shall continue a widow and be able to keep the family together and school the children reasonably, or give them a common education.

If she should find it impossible to support the family and keep them together, in such event I wish such a disposition made of my personal property and the land as shall be thought by a concurrent council of the three whom I have named, for the benefit of the family, to sell or rent the land as they in council shall think most desirable.

If the widow should marry, I wish my property to be for the benefit of the children that she and I have had, except so much as shall by law belong to the widow. If she never marries, at her death I wish the children that she and I have had to have all the property.

In testimony thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 27th day of July 1835

Samuel Gibbs (Seal)

Attest

Aaron Collier

Samuel Miller

William A. Miller

Sworn by Samuel Miller and William A. Miller witnesses thereto and recorded.

J. Foster, Clerk

An Ohio Gibbs Branch

During the mid-eighteenth century, a distinct cluster of Gibbs families can be documented residing in and migrating westward from West Caln Township in Chester County, Pennsylvania, following the advancing frontier and the formation of new counties throughout the colony. The surviving records from this period are incomplete, and the frequent repetition of given names such as Hugh, Robert, and James complicates precise identification of individuals. Consequently, the exact familial relationships within this group cannot yet be established with certainty. However, Robert Gibbs Sr. is clearly situated within this broader migration pattern, and the individuals who migrated alongside him were very likely his brothers, cousins, or other close relatives.

From this group emerged Hugh Gibbs (1784-1866), who continued westward into Ohio and established what became a substantial Ohio branch of the family. It is my working hypothesis that Hugh was a nephew of Robert Gibbs Sr., a relationship suggested by geography, chronology, naming patterns, and migration paths, and one I am actively seeking to document through further research.

Hugh Gibbs is buried at Kenton Pioneer Cemetery in Concord Township, Champaign County, Ohio. His grave rests alone at the edge of open farmland, marked by a weathered stone softened by time, lichen, and encroaching grass. The isolation of the site—exposed to wind, sky, and seasons—stands as a quiet and fitting testament to an early settler whose life bridged the wooded hills of colonial Pennsylvania and the wide, unsettled landscapes of the Old Northwest.



Autosomal DNA linking Samuel to Cornelius

No surviving document directly identifies **Cornelius Gibbs** as a son of **Samuel Gibbs** of Pettis County, Missouri (d. 1835). Cornelius is not listed among the heirs named in Samuel's will, and no known deed, probate record, or church entry explicitly states the relationship. Nevertheless, a combination of historical context and modern genetic evidence strongly supports the conclusion that Cornelius belonged to the family of Samuel Gibbs.

Historical records place both men within the same migration stream during the early nineteenth century. Samuel Gibbs lived in Kentucky before later settling in Missouri, and Cornelius Gibbs appears in records within the same general region during roughly the same period. This geographic proximity suggests a close familial relationship, though documentary evidence alone does not definitively establish it.

Autosomal DNA testing among multiple descendants of the Gibbs family provides important additional evidence. **Jean Williams Franklin**, a documented descendant of **Pleasant Gibbs**, shares autosomal DNA with several descendants of the Logan family, the family of **Martha Logan**, the confirmed first wife of Samuel Gibbs. These matches include three descendants of **Hugh Logan**, two descendants of **Jonathan Logan**, three descendants of **Matthew Logan**, and one descendant of **Charles Logan**, all brothers of Martha Logan. Because these individuals descend from several different siblings within the Logan family, the shared DNA indicates that the Gibbs line represented by Franklin carries inherited DNA from the Logan family.

Martha Patsy Logan's Confirmed Siblings	Autosomal DNA matches to Jean Franklin
Hugh Logan	3
Jonathan Logan	2
Matthew Logan	3
Charles Logan	1

DNA Results provided from Ancestry.com as of March 2026

Additional evidence comes from two separate descendants of Cornelius Gibbs through his second marriage, providing independent genetic confirmation from different branches of Cornelius's family.

B. David Duncan, a descendant of Cornelius through his son **Elijah Gibbs**, shares autosomal DNA with a descendant of **John Hiram Gibbs**, the brother of **Samuel Gibbs**. Duncan also shares DNA with two descendants of Samuel Gibbs and his second wife, Mary Turner. These matches connect the Cornelius line both to the wider Gibbs paternal family and directly to descendants of Samuel himself.

A second descendant of Cornelius, **Hayward “Dan” Dunn**, provided the DNA results of his late uncle **Norman Dunn**, who descends from **Cornelius Gibbs Jr.**, another son of Cornelius by his second wife. Norman Dunn’s results independently reproduce the same pattern of connections. He shares autosomal DNA with two descendants of **Margaret L. Gibbs**, a documented daughter of Samuel Gibbs and **Mary Turner**. In addition, Dunn has four autosomal DNA matches to descendants of Samuel’s brother, **John Hiram Gibbs**, further linking the Cornelius line to the broader Gibbs family.

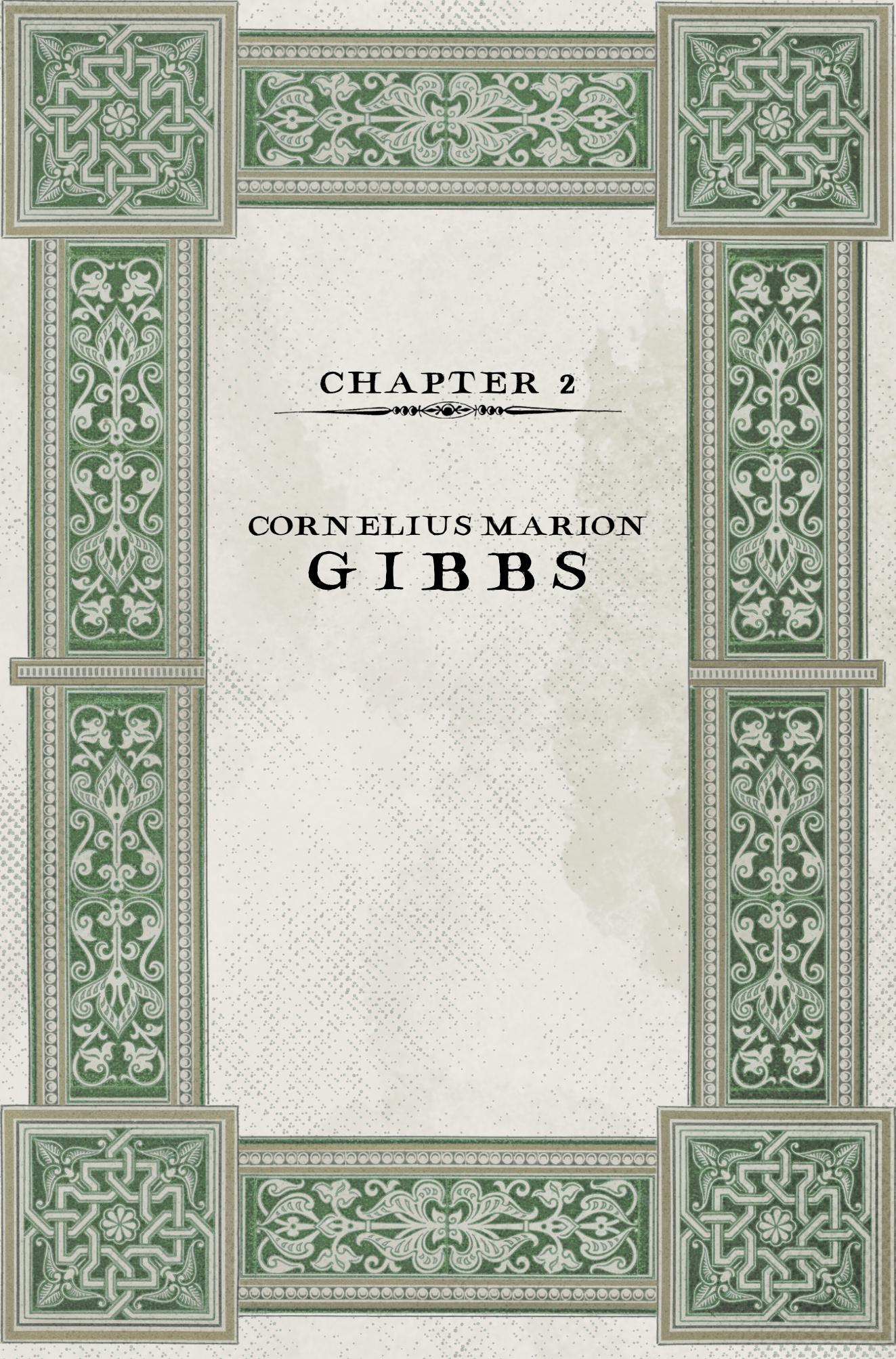
Dunn’s results also show connections to the Logan family, with five matches to descendants of Hugh Logan, one to a descendant of Jonathan Logan, and two to descendants of Robert Logan, all brothers of Martha Logan. These matches again demonstrate that descendants of the Cornelius line carry inherited DNA from the Logan family.

Taken together, the DNA evidence from these three testers forms a consistent pattern. Descendants of the Gibbs family associated with Pleasant Gibbs show genetic connections to the Logan family, the family of Samuel’s first wife. Descendants of Cornelius Gibbs, through two separate lines, share DNA with descendants of Samuel’s brother, descendants of Samuel and Mary Turner, and descendants of Martha Logan’s siblings. Such a convergence of genetic connections is precisely what would be expected if Cornelius Gibbs were a son of Samuel Gibbs.

The absence of Cornelius from Samuel’s 1835 will does not necessarily contradict this conclusion. In the early nineteenth century it was common for parents to distribute portions of their estates to children during their lifetime in the form of land, livestock, or other property. These transfers, known as advancements, sometimes resulted in children receiving little or no mention in a later will if the parent believed they had already received their share.

When considered together—the historical migration patterns of the Gibbs family and the multiple independent DNA matches linking descendants of Cornelius to the Logan family, to Samuel’s brother John Hiram Gibbs, and to descendants of Samuel himself—the evidence strongly supports the conclusion that Cornelius Gibbs belonged to the family of Samuel Gibbs, most likely as one of his sons.



A decorative border surrounds the central text. It consists of four corner squares and four side rectangles. The corner squares feature a complex interlocking knot design in gold on a green background. The side rectangles feature a repeating floral and foliate pattern in gold on a green background. The entire border is framed by a thin gold line.

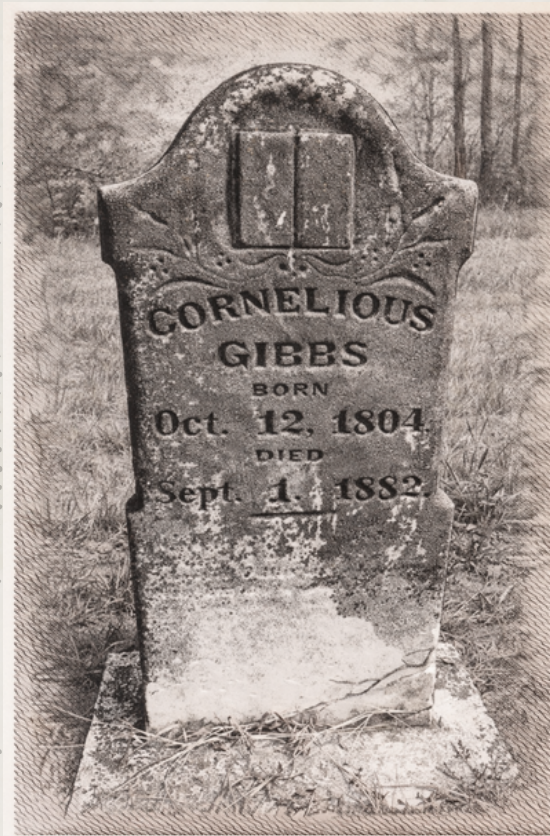
CHAPTER 2

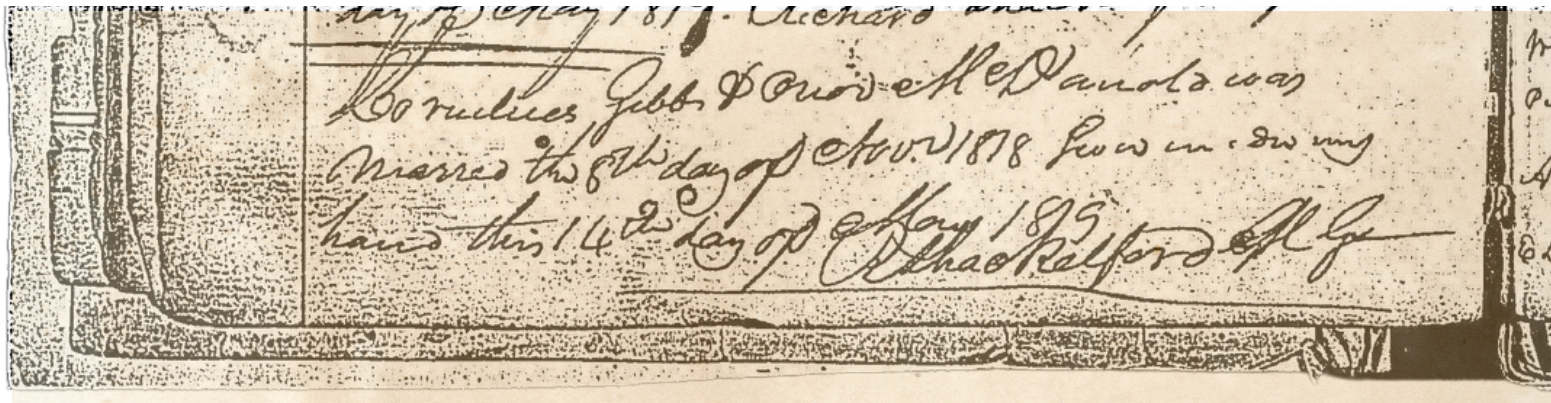
CORNELIUS MARION
GIBBS



Cornelius Marion Gibbs was born into a Kentucky still defining itself. Although his gravestone records his birth year as 1804, the balance of available evidence suggests he was likely born closer to 1800—a discrepancy common in an era when births were rarely recorded and dates were often reconstructed from memory decades later. He entered a world shaped less by permanence than by opportunity, where shifting county lines, newly opened land, and kin-based migration determined the course of ordinary lives.

The earliest surviving record that can be confidently associated with Cornelius marks his entry into adulthood. A marriage record from Casey County, Kentucky, documents the union of “Cornelious Gibb” with a woman identified only as a McDonald, her given name rendered illegible by poor handwriting. Later transcriptions variously record her as Ora, Oren, or Orior, while earlier researchers read the name as Ann—a rendering that appears most consistent with the original script and surrounding context. While the exact spelling remains uncertain, this record stands as the sole contemporary document naming Cornelius’s first wife and confirms that he entered adulthood already forming a household of his own.





Cornelius Gibb & _____ McDonald was
married the 8th day of Nov 1818 Sworn in on my hand this 14th day of May 1819

R Shackelford

Cornelius was raised among farming families for whom land represented livelihood, inheritance, and security. His parents, Samuel Gibbs and Martha "Patsy" Logan, moved within a familiar corridor of interrelated Kentucky communities, settling along creeks and forks where kin clustered and farms took root. The Gibbs family's appearance across multiple counties reflects not instability, but the gradual formation of new counties around established households.

Cornelius appears consistently on the tax rolls of Casey County from 1823 through 1827, a period that aligns closely with the births of his first children. Pleasant (1823), Leroy Henry (1824), and Thomas Greenberry "Green" Gibbs (1826) were all born during these years, firmly anchoring Cornelius in Kentucky as both landholder and father. Records further indicate that his daughter Rebecca was born in Tennessee in 1827, suggesting increasing mobility on the eve of westward migration.

1827 Casey County Kentucky Tax Lists -

Hubert Lee	11	do	do	
Hubert Christina	100	do	South Fork	Hubert
Gully Williams				
Graham Robert	50	do	do	
do	50	do	do	do Graham
Hubert Amos				
Hubert Cornelius	100	do	Grace Fork	do Hubert
Hubert James	100	do	South Fork	do Hubert
Grace Joseph				
Hubert Frederick	50	do	Poling Fork	do Hubert
Hubert	11	do	do	do Hubert

33

SCHEDULE of the whole number of Persons within the D

FREE WHITE PERSONS, (INCLUDING HEADS OF F

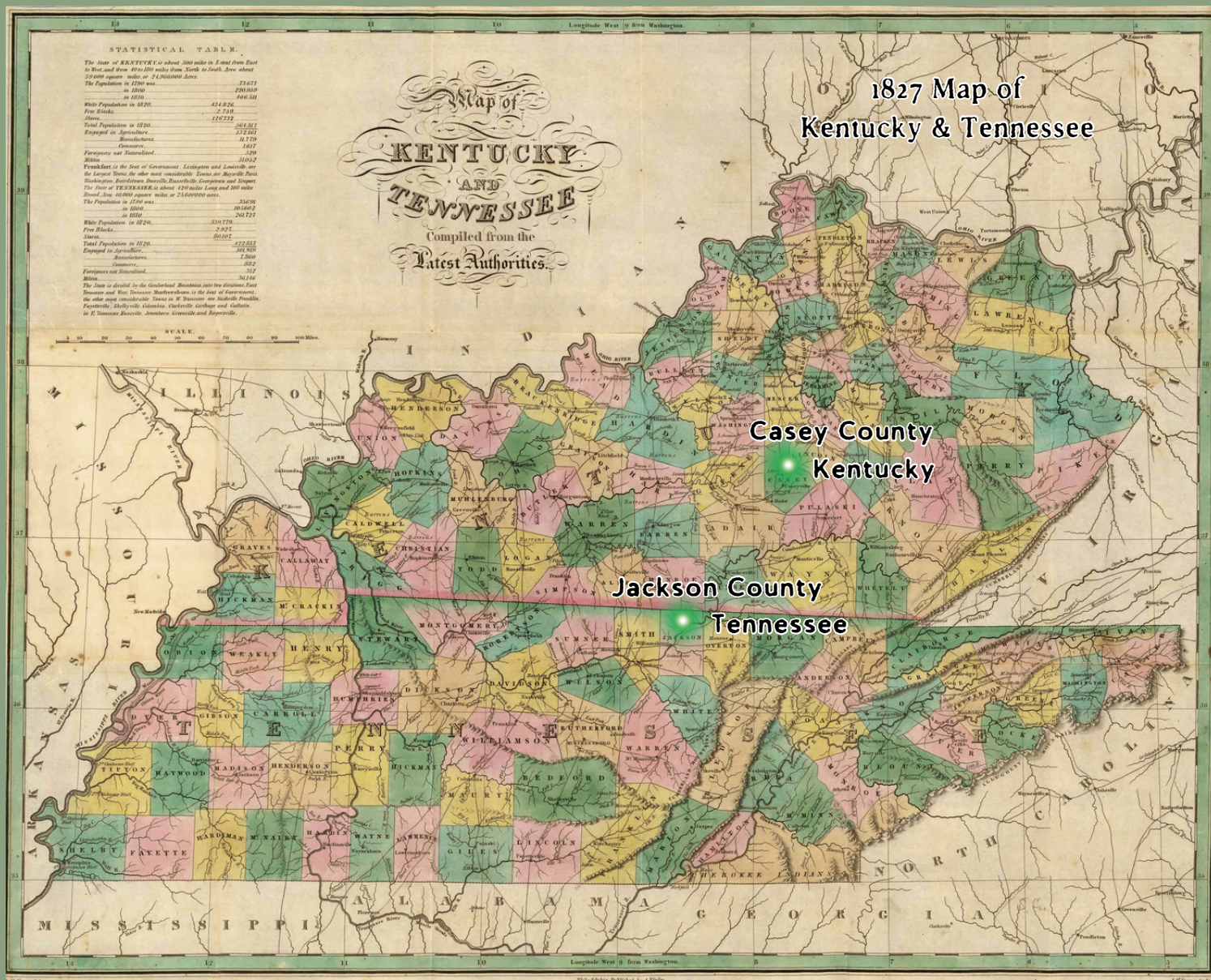
TOWNSHIP PART PRECEDENT HUNDRED	NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES.	MALES.																	
		Under five years of age.	Of five and under ten.	Of ten and under fifteen.	Of fifteen and under twenty.	Of twenty and under thirty.	Of thirty and under forty.	Of forty and under fifty.	Of fifty and under sixty.	Of sixty and under seventy.	Of seventy and under eighty.	Of eighty and under ninety.	Of ninety and under one hundred.	Of one hundred and upwards.	Under five years of age.	Of five and under ten.	Of ten and under fifteen.	Of fifteen and under twenty.	Of twenty and under thirty.
		under 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100	100, &c.	under 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30
	Gibbs Cornelius	1	1	1		1										2			
	Gibbs Samuel	2	1				1								1	1	1		
	Gregory Obadiash		2				1								1				
	Gaines Joseph, V.	1	1	2	2			1							1			1	
	Gains Boodis	2	2				1											1	
	Gaines Edward	2				1												1	
	Griffith Samuel																		2
	Griffith William																		
	Griffith Mary																		
	Griffith David														1	1	1		
	Griffith George														1		1		
	Griffith Eric																		
	Griffith S. C.																		
	Glenn Sharp														1				
	Glenn Thomas																		
	Goard Coleman														1				
	Graves Charles														1	2			
	Griffin Aaron	1			2	1			1										1
	Gailbreath William	1		3				1							1	2			
	Garnett William	2					1								1	2			
	Gray William	1							1						X	X			
	Gully John	1	1		1										1	1			
	Graham John	1	2	2	2			1											
	Giles Meadoros		1	2	2				1										
	Giles William	1				1													
	Glover Darnel			1	1	1			1										1
	Grau Joel					1									1				
		26	15	19	15	9	6	5	6	1					12	12	9		

1830 Federal US Census Jackson County, Tennessee

In 1828, Cornelius Marion Gibbs dissapears from the Casey County tax lists. I believe he left Casey County, Kentucky and relocated just over state lines to Jackson County, Tennessee, joining a southbound migration of kin-related families seeking fresh land and opportunity. Central Kentucky's soils and available acreage had grown scarce, while Tennessee still offered space for a young farmer to establish himself with greater independence.

A Samuel Gibbs is also listed as living in Jackson County - this is not the father of Cornelius, but may be an older undocumented brother or other relative - there is not enough information to confirm this relationship.

Jackson County



Cornelius's movements appear to follow established kin pathways, particularly through his wife's maternal relatives, the McCoy family, who were already settled in the region. A Cornelius appears in the 1830 census of Jackson County, Tennessee, and while absolute certainty is not possible, this placement aligns with the presence of McCoy in-laws there. No alternative census entry for him in 1830 has been located, and Rebecca's Tennessee birthplace further supports this interpretation.



Cornelius Gibbs

b. Oct 12 1804
d. Sep 18 1882



Ann McDonald

Born date
Death date



Pleasant M. Gibbs

b. 1823
d. 1900
m. Eleanor Smith, Phoebe Williams



Leroy H. Gibbs

b. 1884
d. 1863
m. Malinda,
Charlotte Moore



T. G. B. Gibbs

b. abt 1826
d. aft 1880
m. Permelia Williams



Rebecca Gibbs

b. 1827
d. unknown
m. David Collier

The children of Cornelius Gibbs's first marriage present one of the more challenging problems in reconstructing this family's early history. No single surviving document explicitly names or enumerates these children, leaving their identities to be inferred rather than directly stated. This absence is not unusual for the period, particularly for frontier families whose lives unfolded across shifting county lines and in years when recordkeeping was inconsistent at best. Rather than signaling doubt, this gap requires a careful synthesis of indirect evidence—tax lists, census patterns, land proximity, naming conventions, and later family associations. The pages that follow lay out this evidence in detail while continuing Cornelius's story, showing how these children can be identified with confidence even in the absence of a single confirming record.

No surviving birth record explicitly names Cornelius Gibbs as the father of the children born to his first wife, Ann McDonald. This absence, however, reflects the realities of early nineteenth-century frontier recordkeeping rather than a lack of evidence. When viewed together, a broad body of material reveals a cohesive family unit that formed in Kentucky and later migrated into Illinois. This chapter follows Cornelius's life while assembling that evidence, demonstrating with clarity and confidence that through his marriage to Ann McDonald, Cornelius was the father of Pleasant M. Gibbs, Leroy Henry Gibbs, Thomas Greenberry "Green" Gibbs (our direct ancestor), and Rebecca Gibbs.

Supporting Evidence: A

No. 4.)

SCHEDULE of the whole number of persons within the division allotted to

NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES.	FREE WHITE PERSONS, INCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES.																				FREE COLORED PERSONS.												
	MALES.										FEMALES.										MALES.					FEMALES.							
	Under 5	5 under 10	10 under 15	15 under 20	20 under 30	30 under 40	40 under 50	50 under 60	60 under 70	70 under 80	80 under 90	90 under 100	100 and upwards.	Under 5	5 under 10	10 under 15	15 under 20	20 under 30	30 under 40	40 under 50	50 under 60	60 under 70	70 under 80	80 under 90	90 under 100	100 and upwards.	Under 10	10 under 20	20 under 30	30 under 40	40 under 50	50 and upwards.	
John H. G. G.	1				1									1	1			1															
Cornelius Gibbs			2	2		1																											
John H. G. G.					1																												
John H. G. G.					1																												
John H. G. G.					1																												
John H. G. G.					1																												
John H. G. G.					1																												
John H. G. G.					1																												

By 1840, Cornelius and his family were firmly documented in Pope County, Illinois. The 1840 U.S. Census enumerates a household consisting of two boys aged 10–15, two boys aged 15–20, one girl aged 10–15, one male aged 30–40, and one female aged 30–40—an exact match for Pleasant, Leroy, Green, Rebecca, Cornelius, and his first wife. This census entry provides one of the clearest pieces of evidence linking Cornelius to all four children of his first marriage as a single family unit.

Suspected Child of Cornelious Gibbs Sr	Birth Year	Approx. Age in 1840
Pleasant M. Gibbs	abt 1823	17
Leroy Henry Gibbs	abt 1824	16
Unknown	bet 1825 - 1830	10 - 15
Thomas Greenberry "Green" Gibbs	abt 1826	14
Rebecca Gibbs	abt 1827	13

The suspected children of Cornelious and his first wife, Ann McDonald, fit into these age groups perfectly adding supporting evidence that Cornelious is in fact their father.

Soon after the 1840 Census, Cornelius's first wife disappears from the record. On 15 July 1844, Cornelius married Elizabeth Gibbons Estes, a widow. No death record has been located for his first wife, but her absence after 1840 places her death between 1840 and 1844. Cornelius's children by his second marriage—including Elijah and Columbus—belong to a later generation. While their kinship is confirmed through genealogy and DNA, they do not appear in records showing shared land, census proximity, or legal entanglement with the older half-siblings, underscoring the generational divide within the family.

Ordered that the Sheriff summon the following named persons as Grand Jurors to serve at the March Term of the Pope Circuit Court being the 2^d Monday in March 1842 to wit: Rich^d. M. Waters 1. Henry Dixon 2. William R. Whitwade 3. Alfred Hays 4. Ben. Baker 5. Saml. Blain 6. Simeon Reams 7. Thos. Cowarts 8. Levi Gibbons 9. **Cornelius Gibbs** 10. Joseph Dismann 11. Asa Cooper 12. Francis Hays 13. Wm. Brown 14. ~~Henry Brown~~ 15. Henderson Bell 16. Reubin Smith 17. George Linn 18. James Parris 19. John Crotchet 20. Charles A. Shelly 21. John H. Smith 22. Elihu Van Couver 23. Lyman Miller 23.

Ordered that **Cornelius Gibbs**, Asa Cooper and George Crotchet are hereby appointed fence viewers for Monroe Township for the year 1845.

Cornelius did not move through Illinois as a transient settler. By the early 1840s, he was clearly integrated into local civic life. In 1842, he served as a petit juror in Pope County, a role reserved for men regarded as reliable and firmly rooted in the community. In 1843, he was appointed fence viewer in Monroe Township—an office that carried real authority on the frontier, resolving boundary disputes and protecting crops and livestock. Together, these appointments confirm Cornelius as an established landholder and trusted community member.

State of Illinois }
 Pope County } The People of the State of Illinois
 To any person authorized by law, to solemnize the rites
 of Matrimony Greeting.
 You are hereby authorized
 and permitted to join together in the holy bond of
 Matrimony, Cornelius Gibbs and Ms. Elizabeth Estes
 of lawful age and make due return thereof to the Clerk
 of Pope County Court, and for so doing this shall be your
 sufficient warrant.
 Given under my hand and the seal
 of office at Golconda this the 15th day
 of July AD 1844.
 Jno. Raum Clk

State of Illinois }
 Pope County }

The People of the State of Illinois

To any person authorized by law to solemnize the right of
Matrimony Greeting!

You are hereby authorized
 and permitted to join together in the holy bond of matrimony
 Cornelius Gibbs and Ms Elizabeth Estes of lawful age and make due
 return thereof to the Clerk of Pope County Court and for so doing this
 shall be your sufficient warrant

Given under my hand and the seal
 of office at Golconda this the 15th day
 of July AD 1844

Jno Raum Clk

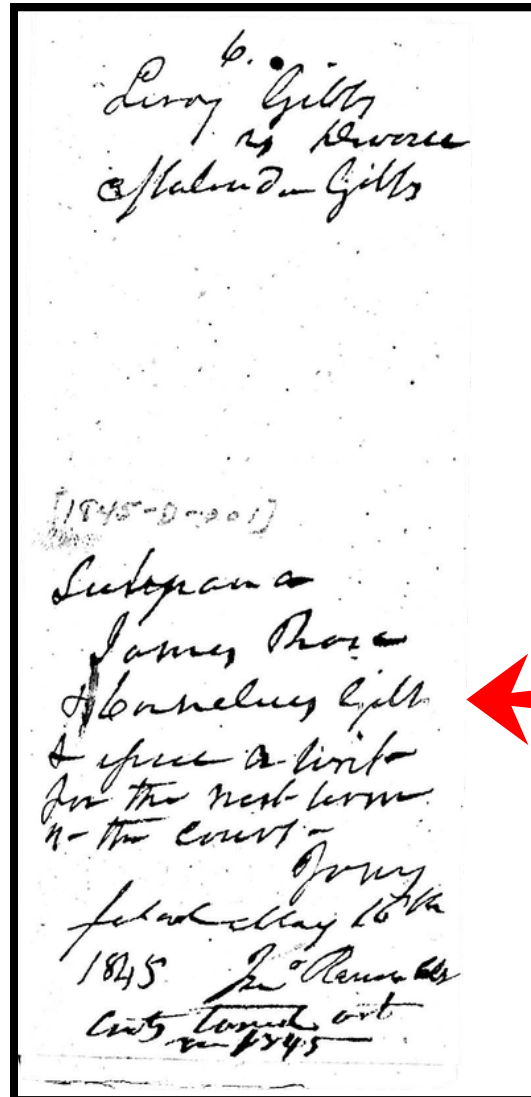
There are several documents in the 1840s and 1850s in Illinois archives that link Cornelius to **Leroy Henry Gibbs**.

B. Divorce of Leroy Henry Gibbs (Feb 1845)

Cornelius was subpoenaed as a witness in Leroy's divorce case (Pope Co. IL Divorce Proceedings, Feb 1845). This provides legal recognition of a close familial relationship. No testimony from Cornelius was included in the file which may have confirmed the relationship.

C. Nearby Land Ownership (1847-1854)

Cornelius purchased multiple land parcels in Section 30 of Saline County, Illinois between 1847-1854, and Leroy purchased land in Section 07 in 1854, roughly 5.5 miles north, amidst many families that would become ancestors in future generations including Mattingly, Moore and Travelstead. Joint settlement through nearby parcels is a classic father-son pattern. (shown on following page)



D. Naming Tradition

Leroy named his son Cornelius in 1851, reflecting honor toward his father and alignment with cultural naming customs. There are 4 other instances of confirmed or suspected descendants of Cornelius Gibbs that were also named Cornelius or Cornelia.

24th. Fishermen's bay. depth 197 30 and
 205 21 inches at 22 ft. The Pannagline
 N. of the yacht, however the distance
 therefrom was not given in the notes.
 The length of the bottom was 167
 64 ft. 6 in. 6 inches in the middle.
 Fishermen's bay. depth 213 3 and 24
 inches at 22 ft. The Peninsula W. from
 the yacht, but the amount of the
 sounding was not stated.

Παρουσία αέρα: 23104.39 αέρες.

Scale of 40 chains to an inch.

Surveyor's Office

St. Louis January 17th 1857

The above plat of Township 34 10 South of the baseline at Range 31 7 East of the 2d principal Meridian is correctly condensed from the Original
 36x60 section thereof and the areas set down thereon, are in conformity with those of the original plat of said Township on file in this Office.

M. Lewis Clark

Surveyor of public lands
in the States of Illinois and Missouri

- 51



Cornelious M. Gibbs

b. Oct 12 1804
d. Sep 18 1882



**Elizabeth
Gibbons Estes**

b. about 1821
d. Jan 19th 1888



Cornelious Gibbs Jr

b. October 7th 1845
d. July 1 1926
m. Emily F Travelstead



Elisha Gibbs

b. 1846
d. Unknown



Lucinda Gibbs

b. 1846
d. Unknown



Columbus M. Gibbs

b. Feb 23rd 1849
d. August 4th 1922
m. Patsey Cummins
& Bettie J. Stone



Elijah M. Gibbs

b. Jul 4th 1849
d. Sep 13 1931
m. Sarah A Killman



Susan G. Gibbs

b. about 1858
d Unknown
m. John H Adams
& George T. Gibbons

SCHEDULE I. Free Inhabitants in *Sommerset Precinct* **in the County of** *Saline* **State**
of *Illinois* **enumerated by me, on the** *29th* **day of** *September* **1850.** *Berj A White* **Ass't Marshal**

Dwellings numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	PLACE OF BIRTH. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	School Attended within the year.	Persons over 20 years of age who cannot read & write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
			Age.	Sex.	White, black, or mulatto.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1		<i>Delilah Younger</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>F</i>				<i>Kentucky</i>			<i>1</i>	
2	<i>59</i>	<i>Elizabeth Linsay</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>F</i>							<i>1</i>	
3	<i>60</i>	<i>William Gibbons</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Farmer</i>		<i>Alabama</i>				
4		<i>Francis</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>F</i>							<i>1</i>	
5		<i>Elijah</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>M</i>				<i>Illinois</i>				
6		<i>Joseph</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>M</i>				<i>Illinois</i>				
7		<i>Isaac</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>F</i>								
8		<i>William</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>M</i>								
9	<i>61</i>	<i>Charles</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>M</i>								
10		<i>Isaac</i>										
11		<i>George</i>										
12		<i>Isaac</i>										
13	<i>62</i>	<i>David</i>										
14		<i>Martha</i>										
15		<i>Sarah</i>										
16		<i>William</i>										
17		<i>Martha</i>										
18		<i>Martha</i>										
19		<i>Christina</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>M</i>								
20		<i>Josephine</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>F</i>								
21		<i>Elizabeth</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>M</i>				<i>Illinois</i>				
22	<i>63</i>	<i>James A. Rude</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Carpenter</i>		<i>Kentucky</i>				
23		<i>Francis</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>F</i>								
24		<i>Isaac</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Labourer</i>	<i>150</i>					
25		<i>Isaac C. Danvers</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>M</i>				<i>Illinois</i>				
26	<i>64</i>	<i>Shadrach Craig</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>M</i>				<i>Alabama</i>				
27		<i>Rachael</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>F</i>				<i>Illinois</i>				
28	<i>65</i>	<i>Cornelius Gibbs</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Farmer</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>Kentucky</i>				
29		<i>Elizabeth</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>F</i>				<i>Alabama</i>			<i>1</i>	
30		<i>Mary S</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>F</i>				<i>Illinois</i>				
31		<i>Lucinda</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>F</i>								
32		<i>Cornelius</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>M</i>								
33		<i>Cornelius</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>M</i>								
34		<i>Elijah</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>M</i>								
35	<i>66</i>	<i>Thorton Cummings</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Farmer</i>						
36		<i>Sarah</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>F</i>				<i>Illinois</i>				
37		<i>Kosannah</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>F</i>				<i>Illinois</i>			<i>1</i>	
38		<i>Rachael</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>F</i>							<i>1</i>	
39		<i>Mary</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>F</i>								
40		<i>Thorton</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>M</i>								
41		<i>Sarah</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>F</i>								
42		<i>Harriett</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>F</i>								

1850 Federal US Census
Sommerset Precinct, Saline County, Illinois

The 1850 United States Census records Cornelius Gibbs residing in Somerset Precinct of Saline County, Illinois, where he is listed as a farmer. At this time he was living with his young children from his second marriage to Elizabeth Gibbons Estes. Like many families of the era, the Gibbs household relied on subsistence farming and the labor of family members to sustain their livelihood in the developing frontier landscape of Saline County.

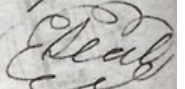
CORNELIUS GIBBS' LAND & THE CREEK NATION

In 1852, Cornelius purchased forty acres of land originally granted to Oak-chun Harjo, a Muscogee (Creek) leader and veteran of the Seminole Wars. Oak-chun Harjo, a signatory to the 1845 treaty between the United States and the Creek and Seminole nations, had received the land in recognition of his military service. Like many Native veterans, he sold land far from Indian Territory, preferring to remain with his people. The transaction reflects the layered realities of nineteenth-century expansion—where Native dispossession, federal policy, and settler opportunity intersected on the same ground.



For value received, I, Ok-Chum-Hafo, to whom the within warrant, No. 50.743, was issued, do hereby sell and assign unto Cornelius Gibbs of and to his heirs and assigns, forever, the said warrant, and authorize him to locate the same, and receive at patent therefor. Witness my hand and seal, this 2nd day of February 1853.

Attest,

Ok-Chum-Hafo, his mark 

Philip A. Relford
U.S. Agent for the Creek

Creek Nation:

On this 2nd day of February, in the year 1853, before me personally came Ok-Chum-Hafo, his identity having been established by the Chiefs and acknowledged the foregoing assignment to be his act and deed, and I certify that the said Ok-Chum-Hafo is the identical person to whom the within warrant issued, and who executed the foregoing assignment thereof.

Philip A. Relford
U.S. Agent for the Creek

I believe the above signature to be genuine

Mar 4th 1856. Charles E. Nix
Clerk U.S. Indian Office

For value received, I Ok-Chun Harjo, to whom the within warrant no. 50.743 was issued, do hereby sell and assign unto Cornelius Gibbs of _____ and to his heirs and assigns, forever, the said warrant and authorize him to locate the same, and receive as patent therefore. Witness my hand and seal, this 2nd day of February 1853

Ok-Chun Harjo, his X mark (seal)

Attest,
Philip Racford
U.S. Agent for the Creeks

Creek Nation:

On this 2nd day of February, in the year 1853 before me personally came Ok-Chun Harjo, his identity having been established by the Chiefs and acknowledged the foregoing assignment to be his act and deed and I certify that the said Ok-Chun Harjo is the identical person to whom the within warrant issued and who executed the foregoing assignment thereof.

Philip Racford
U.S. Agent for the Creeks

During the Florida Wars, particularly the Second Seminole War (1835–1842), the United States government enlisted thousands of Native American allies, including Creek volunteers, to fight alongside federal troops. The Creek Nation, having recently faced its own forced removal from ancestral lands in Alabama and Georgia under the Indian Removal Act of 1830, found itself in a complex position. Some Creek bands resisted removal and sympathized with the Seminole, while others—especially those who had accepted removal or aligned with U.S. interests—served as scouts and soldiers for the Army.

The Creek volunteers were recruited from among those who had been forcibly relocated to Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma), as well as from remaining Creek settlements in the Southeast. U.S. military leaders believed that the Creeks' knowledge of the terrain, language, and Seminole tactics made them valuable allies.

Organized into companies and led by both Creek and white officers, these volunteers served in roles ranging from guides and scouts to active combatants in difficult swamp campaigns.

Their participation was driven by a mixture of coercion, survival, and strategic alliance. Some Creeks joined the effort as a means to demonstrate loyalty to the U.S. government and secure favorable treatment or compensation. Others may have been promised land, rations, or pay—resources that were desperately needed by tribes struggling in Indian Territory. In some cases, traditional Creek enemies had joined with the Seminole, adding another layer of complexity to their participation.

Despite their service, Creek volunteers often received little recognition and faced discrimination from white troops. Nevertheless, their involvement was critical to the U.S. war effort. They were instrumental in tracking Seminole bands through the swamps, locating hidden camps, and navigating the treacherous Everglades—tasks that baffled many white soldiers unfamiliar with the environment. Creek volunteers also helped capture or negotiate with Seminole leaders, contributing to the eventual U.S. victory.



Creek natives circa 1850 (AI generated)

The legacy of Creek participation in the Florida Wars is a reminder of the painful choices Native communities were forced to make during the 19th century. Volunteering for the U.S. Army did not equate to full allegiance, but often reflected a difficult calculus of survival. These Native auxiliaries played a significant yet often overlooked role in shaping the outcome of the Seminole Wars and, by extension, the broader era of Indian Removal.



As Cornelius's children came of age, the nation moved toward civil war. His son Leroy Henry Gibbs enlisted with the 120th Illinois Infantry Volunteers, but deserted after approximately six months. No record explains the circumstances of his departure. Cornelius's other sons, Pleasant and Thomas Greenberry "Green" Gibbs, appear on local militia rolls but did not serve in the war. These choices place the family near the conflict without fully entering it, shaped by local circumstance, personal calculation, and responsibilities that rarely leave documentary traces.

This uneven participation becomes more striking when viewed against the broader family context. Several of Cornelius's cousins—descendants of Samuel Gibbs's brothers—served the Confederacy. Whether Cornelius or his children maintained contact with these relatives is unknown, and there is no evidence that such divided loyalties directly influenced their decisions. The familiar Civil War image of brothers fighting brothers is compelling, but applying it here would exceed the evidence. What can be said is that Cornelius's household navigated the war cautiously, reflecting the deeply personal nature of Civil War participation.

During these same years, Cornelius made a defining personal choice. In the midst of the Civil War, he became a member of Big Saline Baptist Church, received "by experience." This meant he entered the church through a public profession of faith rather than by transfer, recounting a personal conversion before the congregation and submitting to baptism by immersion. Such admissions were common in frontier communities and reflected core Baptist principles of individual conscience, moral accountability, and congregational authority. Big Saline was influenced by the Friends to Humanity movement, which opposed slaveholding on moral grounds. Cornelius's membership places him within a reform-minded religious community at a moment of national crisis.

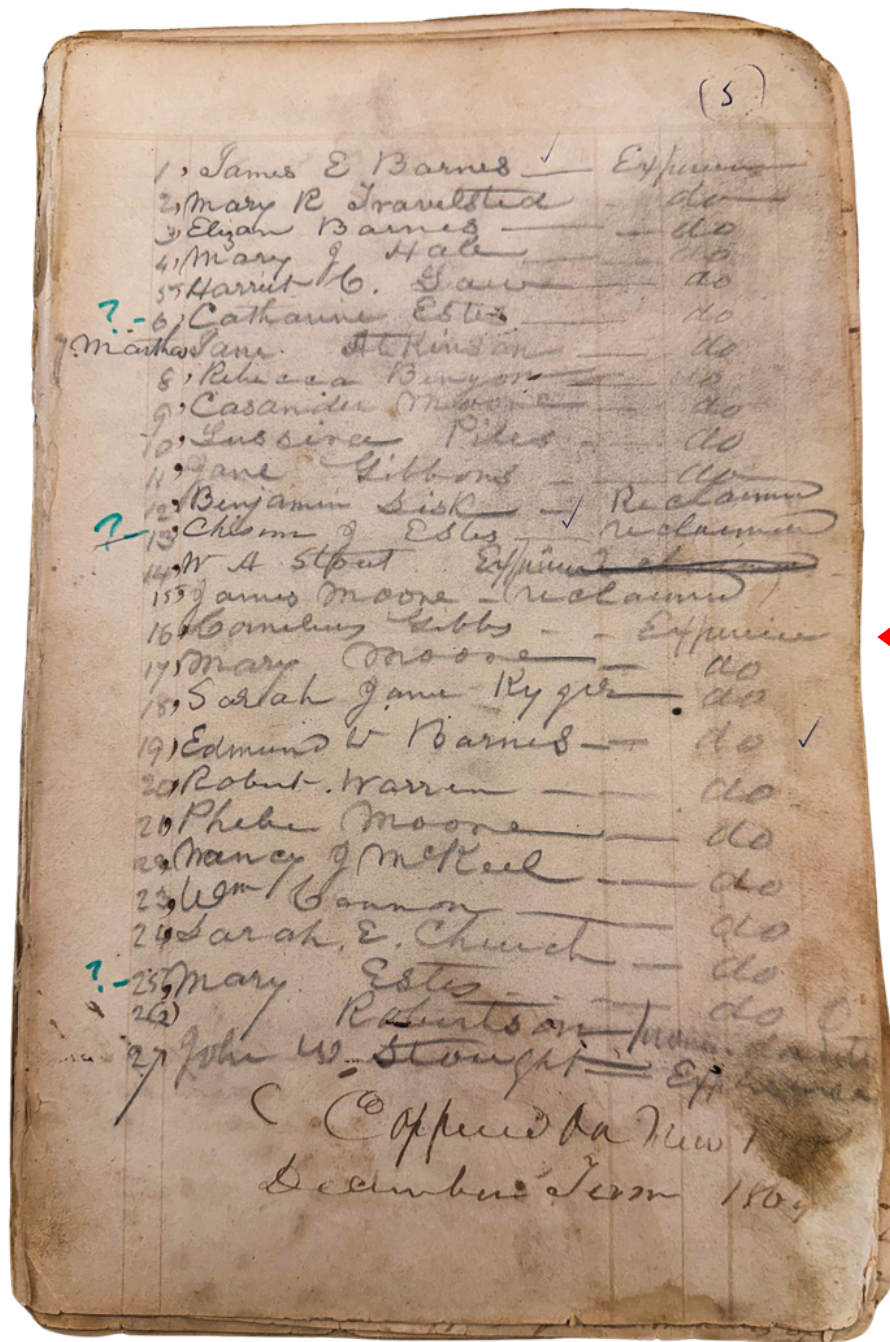
E. Marriage License of Rebecca Gibbs (1878)

On 12 February 1878, Cornelius applied for the marriage license of Rebecca Gibbs, daughter of Leroy Gibbs, deceased (Pope Co. IL Marriage Application, 12 Feb 1878). This confirms his continued paternal role in Leroy's family after Leroy's death. (pictured below)

MARRIAGE AFFIDAVIT.—Culver, Page, Hynes & Co., Stationers, 118 and 120 Monroe Street, Chicago.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, } ss.
COUNTY OF Pope }
Cornelius Gibbs of the County of Pope
and State of Illinois, who has this day applied to me for License of Marriage, being
duly sworn, deposes and says that Smith Hunt
has arrived at the age of 21 years,
and that Miss Rebecca Gibbs has
arrived at the age of 18 years; that they, the parties for whom
said application is made, are now single and unmarried, and may lawfully contract
and be joined in marriage.

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME,
this 12th day of Feb A. D. 1878 } Cornelius & Gibbs
Henry D Baker } marks
Clerk County Court.



Cornelius Gibbs appears in the 1860s membership list of Big Saline Baptist Church in Saline County, Illinois. His son, Leroy Gibbs, is recorded as a member on a separate page of the same register. The membership rolls also include numerous individuals bearing the Moore surname, who were members of Leroy's extended family by marriage, as well as members of the Estes family, relatives of Cornelius Gibbs's second wife, Elizabeth Gibbons Estes, through her late first husband, John Estes.

Big Saline Baptist Church minute book, MS-SC3493, Box: 261.
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Manuscript Collection.

Supporting Evidence: F

By the 1870s, the frontier Cornelius once entered as a young man had transformed into a settled landscape. Fences divided former open ground, roads traced old paths, and the next generation had come of age. Three of Cornelius's four children from his first marriage had formed households of their own, yet they did not scatter. In 1874, allied families—Gibbs, Williams, Reynolds, and Moore—jointly purchased a large tract of land in Pope County, land they would still occupy when the 1880 census recorded them door to door: eleven dwellings in a row, an entire genealogical chart laid across the countryside.

Dwelling # - Name & Wife's Name (Maiden Name)
Relationship to others (dwelling #)

Dwelling 19 - G B Williams & Sarah (Gibbs)

Green Berry Gordon Williams is the brother of Phebe (20), Permelia (22), and Arch (26). Sarah Gibbs is the daughter of Pleasant Gibbs (20)

Dwelling 20 - Pleasant Gibbs & Phebe (Williams)

Pleasant Gibbs is the son of Cornelius, assumed brother of Thomas Green (22), Leroy Henry and Rebecca Gibbs. Phebe Williams is the sister of Permelia (22), Arch (26) and G B (19)

Dwelling 21 - Alex Gibbs & Margaret (Reynolds)

Alex Gibbs is the son of Green Gibbs and Permelia Williams (22), and brother of Joseph Gibbs (24) and Charlotte Gibbs-Moore (23)

Dwelling 22 - Green Gibbs & Permelia (Williams)

Green & Permelia are the parents of Alex (21), Charlotte (23) and Joseph (24). Green is the suspected brother of Pleasant (20) and Leroy Henry (deceased)

Dwelling 23 - John Moore & Charlotte (Gibbs)

Charlotte is the daughter of Green & Permelia (22), and sister to Joseph (24), & Alex (21)

Dwelling 24 - Joseph Gibbs & Eliza (McAnally)

Joseph Gibbs is the son of Green and Permelia (22) and brother of Alex (21) and Charlotte (23)

Dwelling 25 - Eliza Reynolds

Eliza Reynolds is the mother of Margaret Reynolds-Gibbs (21)

Dwelling 26 - Arch Williams & Hannah (Paterson)

Arch is the brother of GB Williams (19) Phebe (20) and Permelia (22)

Dwelling 27 - Henry Moore & Drusilla (Gibbs)

Henry is the brother of John Moore (23), Drusilla Gibbs is the daughter of Leroy Gibbs, deceased brother of Pleasant (20) and brother of Green Gibbs (22)

Dwelling 28 - Smith Hunt & Rebecca (Gibbs)

Rebecca Gibbs is the daughter of deceased Leroy Henry Gibbs, sister of Drusilla (27), niece of Pleasant (20) and niece of Green Gibbs (22)

Dwelling 29 - Cornelius Gibbs & Martha (Gowan)

Cornelius is the son of deceased Leroy Henry Gibbs, brother of Rebecca (28) and Drusilla (27), nephew of Green (22)

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Union Precinct, in the
enumerated by me on the 16th

Note A.—The Census Year begins June 1, 1870, and ends May 31, 1880

Note B.—All persons will be included in the Enumeration who were
June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Members of Families w

Note C.—Questions Nos. 10, 14, 22 and 23 are not to be asked in respe

In Cities	House Number	Family Number	The Name of each Person whose place of abode, on 1st day of June, 1880, was in this family.	Personal Description	Civil Condition	Occupation
				Color—White, W; Black, B; Native, N; Foreign, F.	Single, S; Married, M; Widowed, W; Divorced, D; Married during Census year, /	
				Age at last birthday prior to June 1, 1880, If under 1 year, give month in fraction, like 7-12.		
				If born within the Census year, give the month.		
				Relationship of each person to the head of this family—whether wife, son, daughter, servant, boarder, or other.		
						Profession, Occupation or Trade of each person, male or female.
1	1313		William Jessy	W M 30	Head	Farmer
2			Sarah	W F 25	Wife	Keeps house
3			Orpha	W F 7	Daughter	
4			Charles	W M 3	Son	
5			Martha	W F 12	Daughter	
6	1414		Gully Geo W	W M 47	Head	Farmer
7			Caliga	W F 38	Wife	Keeps house
8			Diessa	W F 23	Daughter	
9			John	W M 22	Son	Laborer
10			David Long	W M 7	Grand Son	
11	1515		Smith Jesse	W M 36	Head	Farmer
12			Isabel	W F 35	Wife	Keeps house
13			Ellie	W F 13	Daughter	
14			James L	W M 12	Son	
15			Sida	W F 10	Daughter	
16			Mary	W F 8	Daughter	
17			Robt A	W M 5	Son	
18			Lilly	W F 2	Daughter	
19			Laurie A	W F 12	Daughter	
20	1616		Case M M	W M 28	Head	Farmer
21			Lacey	W F 26	Wife	Keeps house
22			Leo R	W M 1	Son	
23	1717		Davis R A	W M 71	Head	Farmer
24			Abitha	W F 21	Wife	
25			Robt C	W M 28	Son	
26			Harris Cynthia	W F 73	Wife	
27	1818		Hall S J	W M 48	Head	Farmer
28			Mira	W F 32	Wife	Keeps house
29			Mary E	W F 12	Daughter	
30			Robert	W M 8	Son	
31			Robt J	W M 2	Son	
32	1919		Williams G B	W M 37	Head	Farmer
33			Sarah	W F 37	Wife	Keeps house
34			Francis	W M 13	Son	
35			Wm D	W M 10	Son	
36			Martha A	W F 9	Daughter	
37			David S	W M 8	Son	
38			Leo W	W M 2	Son	
39			James P	W M 1	Son	
40	2020		Hibbs Pleas	W M 57	Head	Farmer
41			Phibe	W F 40	Wife	Keeps house
42			Isiah	W M 23	Son	
43			Martha	W F 21	Daughter	
44			Emeline	W F 10	Daughter	
45			Willie	W M 3	Son	
46			Ellie L	W F 2	Grand Daughter	
47			James R	W M 9	Son	
48	2121		Gibbs Eliza	W M 30	Head	Farmer
49			Margaret	W F 24	Wife	Keeps house
50			Charles	W M 4	Son	

Note D.—In making entries in columns 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16 to 23, an affirmative mark only will be used—thus /, except in the case of divorced persons.
Note E.—Question No. 13 will only be asked in cases where an affirmative answer has been given either to question 10 or to question 11.
Note F.—Question No. 14 will only be asked in cases where a gainful occupation has been reported in column 13.
Note G.—In column 7 an abbreviation in the name of the month may be used, as Jan., Apr., Dec.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Union Precinct, in the
enumerated by me on the 16th

Note A.—The Census Year begins June 1, 1870, and ends May 31, 1880

Note B.—All persons will be included in the Enumeration who were
June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Members of Families w

Note C.—Questions Nos. 10, 14, 22 and 23 are not to be asked in respe

In Cities	House Number	Family Number	The Name of each Person whose place of abode, on 1st day of June, 1880, was in this family.	Personal Description	Civil Condition	Occupation
				Color—White, W; Black, B; Native, N; Foreign, F.	Single, S; Married, M; Widowed, W; Divorced, D; Married during Census year, /	
				Age at last birthday prior to June 1, 1880, If under 1 year, give month in fraction, like 7-12.		
				If born within the Census year, give the month.		
				Relationship of each person to the head of this family—whether wife, son, daughter, servant, boarder, or other.		
						Profession, Occupation or Trade of each person, male or female.
1	2121		Gibbs Stella	W F 1	Daughter	
2	2222		Gibbs Eliza	W M 57	Head	Farmer
3			Emeline	W F 47	Wife	Keeps house
4			John	W M 23	Son	
5			Joe	W M 19	Son	
6			Shes	W M 14	Son	
7			Missusma	W F 12	Daughter	
8			Sarah	W F 10	Daughter	
9			Lemora	W F 6	Daughter	
10	2323		Moore John	W M 37	Head	Farmer
11			Charlotte	W F 24	Wife	Keeps house
12			Isiah	W M 3	Son	
13			Letha	W F 2	Daughter	
14	2424		Gibbs Joseph	W M 25	Head	Farmer
15			Eliza	W F 24	Wife	Keeps house
16			Wm Henry	W M 3	Son	
17			Julia	W F 2	Daughter	
18			Eliza	W F 2	Daughter	
19	2525		Reynolds Eliza	W F 57	Head	Farmer
20			Harriet	W F 10	Daughter	
21	2626		Williams Arch	W M 40	Head	Farmer
22			Annabiah	W F 38	Wife	Keeps house
23			Harvey P	W M 18	Son	
24			John L	W M 17	Son	
25			Robt W	W M 15	Son	
26			Annabiah	W F 14	Daughter	
27			Lemora	W F 11	Daughter	
28			Shirley	W F 9	Daughter	
29	2727		Moore Henry	W M 20	Head	Farmer
30			Emeline	W F 21	Wife	Keeps house
31			James S	W M 2	Son	
32	2828		Hunt Smith	W M 35	Head	Farmer
33			Rebecca	W F 19	Wife	Keeps house
34			Joseph	W M 1	Son	
35	2929		Gibbs Emeline	W M 27	Head	Farmer
36			Martha	W F 2	Daughter	
37			John	W M 4	Son	
38			James B	W M 1	Son	
39			Minna D	W F 14	Daughter	
40	3030		Barnes J A	W M 30	Head	Farmer
41			Emeline	W F 33	Wife	Keeps house
42			Isiah L	W M 12	Son	
43			Wm Joseph	W M 10	Son	
44			J. G. B	W M 8	Son	
45			J. R. L	W M 6	Son	
46			A. J. S	W M 4	Son	
47			Henry A. O.	W M 2	Son	
48			Emeline	W F 12	Daughter	
49	3131		Williams Allen	W M 30	Head	Farmer
50			Martha	W F 12	Daughter	

Note D.—In making entries in columns 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 to 23, an affirmative mark only will be used—thus /, except in the case of divorced persons.
Note E.—Question No. 13 will only be asked in cases where an affirmative answer has been given either to question 10 or to question 11.
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Note G.—In column 7 an abbreviation in the name of the month may be used, as Jan., Apr., Dec.

Page No. 30

Supervisor's Dist. No. 8

Enumeration Dist. No. 82

Note A.—The Census Year begins June 1, 1879, and ends May 31, 1880.

Note B.—All persons will be included in the Enumeration who were living on the 1st day of June, 1880. No others will. Children BORN SINCE June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Members of Families who have DIED SINCE June 1, 1880, will be INCLUDED.

Note C.—Questions Nos. 13, 14, 22 and 23 are not to be asked in respect to persons under 10 years of age.

SCHEDULE I.—Inhabitants in Grand Pier Precinct, in the County of Pope, State of Illinois
 enumerated by me on the 5th day of July, 1880.

William W. Dierman

Enumerator.

In Clus.		Personal Description.				Civil Condition.			Occupation.		Health.					Education.			Nativity.						
Name of Head.	House Number.	The Name of each Person whose place of abode, on 1st day of June, 1880, was in this family.		Color—White, W.; Black, B.; Mulatto, M.; Chinese, C.; Indian, I.	Sex—Male, M.; Female, F.	Age at last birthday prior to June 1, 1880. If under 1 year, give month and day.	Single, /; Married, /; Widowed, /; Divorced, /.	Married during Census year, /.	Profession, Occupation or Trade of each person, male or female.	Number of months this person has been unemployed during the Census year.	Is the person (on the day of the Enumerator's visit) sick or temporarily disabled, so as to be unable to attend to ordinary business or duties? If so, what is the sickness or disability?	Blind, /.	Deaf and dumb, /.	Idiotic, /.	Inane, /.	Maimed, Crippled, Paralyzed, or otherwise disabled, /.	Attended school within the Census year, /.	Cannot read, /.	Cannot write, /.	Place of Birth of this person, naming the State or Territory of United States, or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Place of Birth of the Father of this person, naming the State or Territory of United States, or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Place of Birth of the Mother of this person, naming the State or Territory of United States, or the Country, if of foreign birth.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		Sale	W. H. 8			Daughter															Illinois	Tennessee	Tennessee		
		Louis A	W. H. 1			son															Illinois	Tennessee	Tennessee		
		William L A	W. H. 24			Brother-in-law			work on farm												Illinois	Virginia	Virginia		
274	276	Georg H J	W. H. 33						farm laborer												Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky		
		Maryannett	W. F. 19			wife			works												Tennessee	Tennessee	England		
		Emma	W. F. 7																		Indiana	Tennessee	Tennessee		
275	277	Rose Blumford	W. H. 33						Farmer												Illinois	Illinois	Illinois		
		Barbara	W. F. 23			wife			Keeping House												Illinois	Illinois	Illinois		
									at school												Illinois	Illinois	Illinois		
																					Illinois	Illinois	Illinois		
																					Illinois	Illinois	Illinois		
																					Illinois	Illinois	Illinois		
274	278																				Indiana	Indiana	Ohio		
																					Kentucky	Indiana	Indiana		
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277	279																				Illinois	Indiana	Indiana		
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NOTE D.—In making entries in columns 9, 10, 11, 12, 16 to 23, an affirmative mark only will be used—thus, /, except in the case of divorced persons, column 11, when the letter "D" is to be used.

NOTE E.—Question No. 12 will only be asked in cases where an affirmative answer has been given either to question 10 or to question 11.

NOTE F.—Question No. 14 will only be asked in cases when a gainful occupation has been reported in column 13.

NOTE G.—In column 7 an abbreviation in the name of the month may be used, as Jan., Apr., Dec.

The story does not end in deeds or census schedules. It continues in DNA—small but persistent signals carried by living descendants. Though Cornelius contributes only a fraction of genetic material to later generations, his legacy appears repeatedly through the lines of all six of his children, confirmed by modern matches that mirror the documentary record.

- Pleasant's line: 28 DNA matches
- Leroy's line: 10 DNA matches
- Green's line: 17 DNA matches
- Rebecca's line: 2 DNA matches
- Cornelius Jr. & Elijah's lines: 6 and 7 matches respectively

(Matches to myself, Derek Gibbs, as of October 25th 2025 on Ancestry.com)

These clusters are not theoretical. They are real, modern people still bonded by the choices Cornelius made two centuries ago.



Cornelius is buried among family at Lockwood Cemetery in Saline County, where simple, deteriorating markers testify to lives lived without expectation of permanence. Many names are already fading.

The chapter that follows turns to one of those names—Thomas Greenberry “Green” Gibbs. Born on the Kentucky frontier, shaped by migration, and coming of age in Illinois during war and moral division, Green would inherit not only land and kinship, but the unresolved tensions of the world his father helped build.



Lockwood Cemetery Rudement, Illinois

Lockwood Cemetery, situated in the southwest corner of Section 19 in Mountain Township (formerly Summerset Township), Saline County, Illinois, lies just southeast of Rudement along the east side of Sally Holler Road. This well-maintained cemetery serves as the final resting place for numerous local residents. With about 75 known burials, at least 12 are Gibbs with several Mattingly, Cummins and Travelstead burials as well. The earliest known burials are from the 1850s with the last known burials occurring in the 1970s.

-  Burial of Tom Gibbs & Gertie Mattingly Gibbs - my great grandparents
-  Burial of John Willard Gibbs, son of Tom & Gertie Gibbs
-  Burial of Cornelius M. Gibbs Sr.

Buried to the right of Tom and Gertie are Elijah and Colombus Gibbs, sons of Cornelius, Rath D. Gibbs and Albert A. Gibbs, great grandson's of Cornelius as well as other Gibbs relatives.



Many Gibbs headstones at Lockwood and other cemeteries are rudimentary and made of stone or concrete with the name and dates scratched in. Many of these headstones are deteriorating and will soon be completely unreadable.

Above: Headstone of Elijah Gibbs, son of Cornelious Marion Gibbs Sr, located at Lockwood Cemetery, Rudement Illinois

Below: Headstone of Pleasant M Gibbs, Son of Cornelius Marion Gibbs Sr located at New Liberty Blanchard Cemetery, Eddyville, Pope County, Illinois



New Liberty Blanchard Cemetery
Eddyville, Pope County, Illinois



Lockwood Cemetery
Rudement Illinois

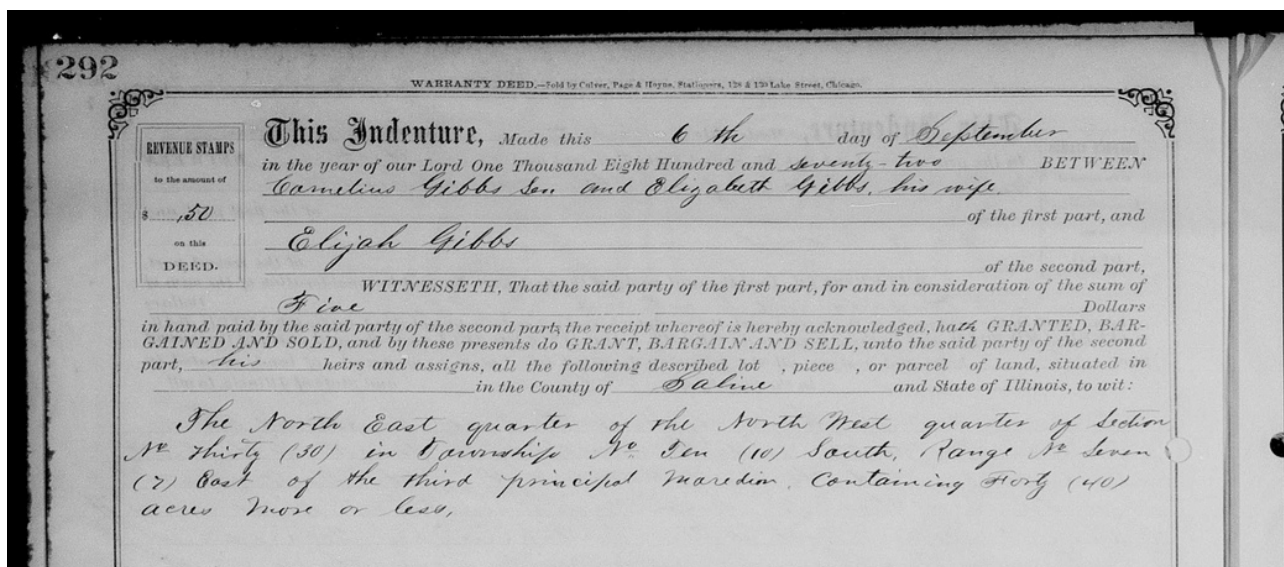
Descendants of Cornelius M. Gibbs Sr.

Excerpt from Saline County : A Century of History, 1847-1947 by Saline County Historical Society, 1947 Page 34

...the last known Shawnee living in Saline County was an aged Shawnee squaw living in Eagle Valley. It is known that she lived alone in solitary squalor as late as 1875 but was so far neglected and unnoticed that she had disappeared for some considerable period of time before the farmers around realized that she no longer was among them.

It was in this mountain neighborhood that **Hankerson Rude** constructed the first Blockhouse in Saline County soon after 1814, and it was in this neighborhood that the last skirmish between the Shawnee and the white settlers took place. **Elijah Gibbs**, an aged settler in that area, lived on the top of what is now called Blackman Hill, a couple of miles north of Thackers Gap which leads through the mountains into Pope County. Gibbs has been dead for some twenty years but before he died he retold the story of the last fight with the Shawnee in the lowland valley near the Blockhouse. There probably were no more than 12 or 15 marauding Shawnee and the battle occurred about the year 1834. Of course they were driven off and were seen no more. At that time, the Indians in Saline County were few and far between. The county had been completely taken under the control and domination of the white settlers.

As Elijah was not born until 1849, this memory may have been handed down from his father Cornelius or another family member



In the 1870s, Cornelius was preparing for a move back to Pope County from Saline County and sold his land to his sons, Elijah and Cornelius Jr.



ELIJAH M. GIBBS

1849 - 1931

Son of Cornelius M. Gibbs Sr, & Elizabeth "Betty" Gibbons

Elijah Gibbs, born July 4, 1849 - Age at death 82 years, 2 months, 9 days. He was married in 1871 to Miss Drucelee Keith. To this marriage were born 3 children, William, Thomas and Elizabeth, who died in infancy.

In April 6, 1882, he united in marriage to Miss Sarah Addline Killman and to this union were born 14 children, as follows; Mrs Phoebe Smee at Parrna, MO., Mrs Lillie Seets (deseased), Lewis at Dorisville (IL), Mrs Mollie Fulkerson, Miss Sarah Gibbs at Evansville, Ind., Ira at Somerset (IL), Mrs Audie Mattingly, Mrs Carrie Duncan at Recter, Ark. The six remaining children died in infancy. This dear father professed a hope in Christ in 1881 and united with Big Saline Church and lived a consistent Christian. Often during his last illness rejoiced in his blessed hope at eternal life, death had lost its sting for him and his only regret in having to leave some of his children unprepared to meet him in the bright beyond. He leaves a wife and nine children to mourn his loss.

Mourn not dear wife and children he was a sheaf well repented for the master's graining for a 'crown of life' is promised to the faithful. This life will be changed from pain & sickness and sorrow into one of eternal bliss.

Jesus my Lord is a wall about me resting in him I dwell secure. Nothing can harm me for nothing can reach me save what he willeth that I endure.



Elijah Gibbs with wife
Sarah Addline Killman



Carrie Gibbs Duncan
1906 - 1992



Phobe Gibbs Smee
1883 - 1951



Lewis Gibbs
1888 - 1974



Mollie Gibbs Fulkerson
1890 - 1982



Ira Gibbs
1900 - 1968



ELIJAH GIBBS Born July 4. 1854 died sept. 13. 1931
 Sarah Adeline Hillman Gibbs Born OCT 10. 1864 died August 13. 1942.
 by Elifah children
 William Gibbs Born OCT 4. 1871
 Thomas Gibbs Born Sept. 8. 1876
 Mary E. Gibbs Born OCT 24. 1878
 Born to Elifah Gibbs & Sarah A. Hillman
 Phibz Gibbs Born July 7. 1883
 Lillian Ann Gibbs Born Dec. 21. 1886
~~Phibz Gibbs Born~~
 Leucis Gibbs Born Aug 31. 1888
 Mollie Gibbs Born Feb 28. 1890
 Mary F. Gibbs Born 21. 1892
 Mollie Gibbs Born Aug 16. 1894
 Baby Born Nov 25. 1896.
 Twins Born April 18. 1899
 Twins Born July 28. 1899
 Ira Gibbs Born Dec. 31. 1900
 Audie Mae Gibbs Born Sept 26. 1903
 Carrie E. Gibbs Born Oct 9. 1906
 DEAD 1917 July
 DEAD 1919
 Mary E. Gibbs died Oct 13. 1883.
 DEAD
 died Sept. 24. 1908
 died August 25. 1974
 died April 15. 1965. funeral Apr. 17.
 died Sept 29. 1896
 died Dec 10. 1896.
 died when born
 died when born.
 died June 5. 1968

Above: Family births and deaths recorded in Mollie Gibbs Fulkerson's bible

In the nineteenth century, family Bible records were among the most important and trusted sources of personal and genealogical information. Before civil registration was standardized, families recorded births, marriages, and deaths in their Bibles, treating them as informal yet authoritative family registers. Because Bibles were valued possessions—often purchased for major life events or passed down through generations—entries were usually made near the time of the event and carefully preserved.

For historians and genealogists, these records are invaluable primary sources, often providing the only evidence of vital events in rural or frontier areas where official records were sparse or lost. Family Bible entries were frequently accepted by churches, courts, and pension offices as proof of age, marriage, or kinship, highlighting their legal and social significance and their role in preserving personal family history.



Marion Columbus "Lummy" Gibbs with wife Elizabeth "Lizzy" DeWeese and children Cecil, Hubert, and Dan (back) circa 1903. Lummy is the son of Cornelius Marion Gibbs Jr and grandson of Cornelious Gibbs Sr.

Alice Gibbs Dunn
 Daughter of Cornelius Gibbs Jr
 1877 - 1953



The McDonalds & McCoys

In an effort to identify the first wife of Cornelius Gibbs, I reviewed tax records for individuals bearing the McDonald surname residing in or near Casey County, Kentucky. While no McDonalds appeared in the Casey County tax lists for the relevant period, several individuals with that surname were present in neighboring Garrard County. This geographic proximity suggested that Cornelius Gibbs' first wife may have originated from one of these nearby McDonald families.

Utilizing AncestryDNA's ThruLines and tree-building tools, I explored potential connections by adding members of the Garrard County McDonald families to my research tree. This process produced a cluster of autosomal DNA matches descending from the family of Roderick "Rod" McDonald. Based on these findings, it appears likely that Rod McDonald was either the father or a close relative—possibly an uncle—of Cornelius Gibbs' first wife.

Further research into Rod McDonald's household identified his documented children as Catherine, Nancy, Margaret, Cynthia, Roderick Jr., Robert, William, Isaac, and John. The naming patterns within this family reflect conventional Anglo-American names common during the period. For this reason, it appears unlikely that Rod McDonald would have given a daughter the relatively uncommon name "Ora," a reading that appears in some transcriptions of Cornelius Gibbs' marriage record. This observation supports the likelihood that the bride's name was instead Ann McDonald, a far more typical name for the era.

Date 1811.	Persons names Taxed	No. of Acre Rates of Land			County in which the land lies	Water Course on which the land lies	In what name Entered
		1	2	3			
April 20 th 1811	J. M. Myers	—	1281 ¹ / ₂	—	Knox	Cumberland	J. M. Myers
	Same	—	657	—	Same	Same	Same
	Same	—	996	—	Same	Same	Same
July 30 th 1811	Elizabeth M. Gentry	—	—	133 ³ / ₄	Garrard	Drakes Cr.	—
Aug 6 th 1811	M. Kee	260	—	—	Mason	—	J. H. Harvey
	Same	—	—	536	—	State	W. M. Kee
	Same	—	—	600	—	Rupels Cr.	Same
	Same	—	—	800	—	C. River	Same
	Daniel M. Donald	—	100	—	Garrard	Buck Cr.	—
	Roderick M. Donald	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Moses M. Kerley	—	15 ³ / ₄	—	Same	Gillbuts Cr.	Craig
	Same	—	140	—	Seppamine	Seppamine	—
	Wm M. McDonald	—	—	—	—	—	—

Autosomal DNA evidence further strengthens this conclusion. I share DNA matches with descendants of several of Rod McDonald's confirmed children, including one match descending from Nancy McDonald, two from Margaret McDonald, one from William McDonald, and one from John McDonald. My brother, Joshua Ryan Gibbs, independently matches descendants of the same McDonald family, including two descendants of Nancy, three of Margaret, one of Catherine, and three of Cynthia. These multiple independent matches across several sibling lines strongly indicate that the Gibbs descendants share ancestry with the family of Roderick McDonald.

Roderick's confirmed children	Autosomal DNA matches to Author	Autosomal DNA matches to Author's Brother, Josh
Nancy McDonald	1	2
Margaret McDonald	2	3
William McDonald	1	0
John McDonald	1	0
Catherine McDonald	0	1
Cynthia McDonald	0	3

Robert McCoy's confirmed children	Autosomal DNA matches to Jean Franklin
Margaret McCoy	1
Daniel McCoy	1
Isabel McCoy	1
Jane McCoy	1

Additional corroboration appears through the McCoy family. Historical records identify Ann McCoy as the mother of Ann McDonald and the daughter of Robert McCoy. Four separate descendants of Robert McCoy share autosomal DNA with Jean Williams Franklin, a confirmed descendant of Pleasant Gibbs. This independent set of matches linking the McCoy and Gibbs descendant lines further supports the conclusion that Cornelius Gibbs' first wife was likely Ann McDonald, granddaughter of Robert McCoy and a member of the McDonald family residing in the Garrard-Casey County region of early Kentucky.

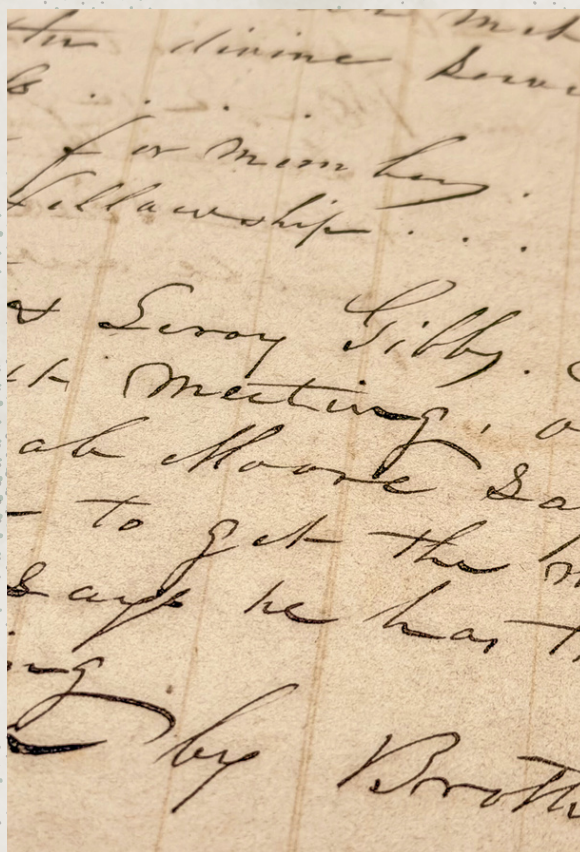


Photo Courtesy: Sami Lepre

The elderly woman seated at the center is believed to be Isabel (McCoy) McDonald, wife of Roderick McDonald. Seated to her left is their son, William McDonald, with his wife, Margaret Carlisle, standing behind him.



Leroy Henry Gibbs was born about 1824, almost certainly in the Stanford area of Garrard County, Kentucky, the son of **Cornelius Marion Gibbs** and **Ann McDonald**. He belonged to the oldest Illinois-bound generation of this Gibbs line. Leroy's early childhood unfolded in a region of the Bluegrass where land was already difficult to secure for younger sons. By the 1820s and 1830s, central Kentucky was no longer frontier; the next frontier lay across the Ohio River.



Leroy's name in the minutes of the Big Saline Baptist Church

As a young adult, Leroy married Malinda — last name unknown. That marriage did not endure. In October 1845, Leroy and Malinda legally divorced — an unusually early divorce for rural Illinois/Kentucky families of the era. About 1849 he remarried. His second wife was **Charlotte Moore**, whose kin connections in Mountain Township anchored his household permanently in Saline County. Leroy and Charlotte appear together in the 1850 and 1860 federal censuses with their growing group of children. Their household sat among a cluster of Gibbs families, multiple men named Cornelius, and other Kentucky-origin surnames — evidence of a transplanted kin network.

To the Honourable the Judge in chancery
 sitting your Orator Leroy Gibbs would
 humbly represent unto your honourable
 Court that your Orator some time ago
 intermarried with one Malinda Gibbs
 who is prayed a Deft to this bill
 that they lived together as man & wife
 agreeably until she instigated by some
 evil influence left your Orator's bed
 & board without any cause or provocation
 & has been absent therefrom for the
 space of more than two years - your
 Orator charges said Malinda to
 have been guilty of adultery & fornication
 your Orator charges that he ever
 treated ^{Malinda} with kindness & attention & provid-
 ing for her in every way such as a
 husband should food clothing &c
 In tender consideration whereof

Pope County Court Record: 1845-D-001

"To the Honourable, the Judge in chancery sitting, your Orator Leroy Gibbs would humbly represent unto your honourable court that your Orator some time ago intermarried with one Malinda Gibbs, who is a deft to this bill, that they lived together as man and wife agreeably until she, instigated by some evil interference, left your Orator's bed & board without any cause or provocation & has been absent therefrom for the space of more than two years - your orator charges said Malinda to have been guilty of adultery & fornication. Your orator charges that he even healed Malinda with kindness & attention and providing for her in every way such as a husband should food/clothing in tender consideration whereof & to the end that Sd Deft (said defendant) true and proper answers make as if the same were put by way of special interrogation your Orator prays the people by writ of subpoena commands the Sd Deft (said defendant) to answer & upon the final hearing hereof grant to your orator a divorce & such other further relief as to equity & conscience may belong as no duty bound will ever profit."

BIG SALINE BAPTIST CHURCH



Big Saline Baptist Church occupied a central place in the religious and social life of Saline County, Illinois, during the nineteenth century. The church's earliest recorded session was held on the Friday preceding the first Lord's Day in October 1854, marking the formal organization of a congregation that would serve as a spiritual and social anchor for families throughout the region. From its inception, the church functioned not only as a place of worship but also as an institution that shaped moral conduct, reinforced community standards, and documented the lives of its members.

Like many Baptist congregations in southern Illinois, Big Saline Baptist Church emerged from the broader frontier evangelical movement of the early and mid-1800s. Congregational governance placed authority in the hands of the membership, with votes taken on admissions, transfers, discipline, and reconciliation. Church minutes carefully recorded these proceedings, preserving a detailed account of rural life at a time when few other institutions maintained comparable records.

Significantly, Big Saline Baptist Church was affiliated with the movement known as Friends to Humanity, a designation associated with reform-minded Baptist congregations that emphasized moral accountability, humanitarian concern, and ethical conduct. Churches aligned with Friends to Humanity viewed Christian faith as inseparable from conscience and behavior, often addressing matters of justice, personal responsibility, and reconciliation within both spiritual and practical spheres.

peace among themselves
G. P. Renth
On 28

June Term 1860
H. B. Bannett

Church met
in conference and after divine
service proceeded to business.
Appointed Bro J. H. Church
Moderator
Invited visiting Brethren
to seat with us.
Openness a door for members
called for the Fellowship
of the Church

Reference

Bros Joab Moore & Leroy Gibbs
Called up. The Committee
appointed to get them together
report that they had settled
their business

On Motion of Bro
Renth. Moved that a ref-
erence be made for our next
meeting, whether it be order for
a member to move out of
the bounds of this Church with
out calling for a letter

June Term 1860

REFERENCE

Bros Joab Moore and Leroy Gibbs called up the committee appointed
to get them together report that they had settled their business

Big Saline Baptist Church served as a spiritual home for interconnected families, including the Gibbs, Moore, and Estes families. Leroy Henry Gibbs appears among the earliest known members, joined by several Moore in-laws, including his brother-in-law Joab Moore Jr., with close familial and congregational ties reflected in the church's disciplinary and mediation records.

Church minutes document a prolonged dispute between Leroy Henry Gibbs and Joab Moore Jr. over a debt owed by Moore to Gibbs. The matter appeared repeatedly over several months, indicating the congregation's role in mediating both moral and practical concerns. Its resolution during the June 1860 term underscores the church's emphasis on reconciliation and communal harmony rather than civil litigation.

The Estes family also figured prominently in the congregation. Numerous individuals bearing the Estes surname attended the church, including Chism J. Estes, a member alongside Leroy Henry Gibbs. According to family tradition preserved by descendant Ronald Nelson, Chism was known as an emancipationist, consistent with the humanitarian orientation associated with Friends to Humanity congregations. Cornelius Marion Gibbs Sr. later became a member, extending the family's connection across generations. His second wife, Elizabeth Gibbons Estes, had previously been married to John Estes, whose murder marked a tragic episode in the family's history.

Church records further note that James Curtis Mattingly, grandfather of Gertie Mattingly Gibbs, was briefly a member before being excluded in July 1854, reflecting the congregation's authority in matters of discipline and moral accountability.

Taken together, these records show that Big Saline Baptist Church functioned as more than a place of worship. Shaped by Friends to Humanity principles, it served as a moral forum, mediator of disputes, and stabilizing force within an interconnected rural community, leaving a documentary legacy central to understanding our family's history in southern Illinois.

**Big Saline is still active today with services the second Saturday of each month.
The building is largely unchanged and is still heated by a wood burning stove and with no plumbing.**



After mustering, Company D and the regiment were ordered to Memphis, Tennessee. From there, they performed garrison, provost, and guard work along the Mississippi River — the vital artery of the western theater. The 120th Illinois was tasked with protecting supply depots, transportation hubs, and river towns from Confederate sabotage, guerrilla attacks, and criminal raids. These duties were not glamorous large-scale battles, but they were essential to the Union war effort and demanded constant vigilance. Men walked long patrols in hostile territory, policed uneasy civilian populations, suffered under unsanitary camp conditions, and lived with the persistent threat of disease, fatigue, sudden violence, and the psychological strain of extended service far from home.

79

G | 120 | III.

Leroy Gibbs
Co. D 120 Reg't Illinois Inf.

Appears on

List of Deserters

from the organization named above. List forwarded to the Provost Marshal General, dated *Memphis, Tenn Apr. 30, 1863.*

DESERTED.

When *Feb. 24*, 1863.

Where _____

Remarks : _____

Name cancelled by red ink line

Book mark : _____

Osborne
 (3514) Copyin.

On February 23, 1863, Leroy deserted at Memphis.

What happened after is the darkest portion of his story. Local tradition in Mountain Township — passed down for generations — maintains that Leroy reached home territory and was later shot on the old Walden place, then buried in the Moore/Lambert cemetery in Section 33 of Mountain Township. His grave is unmarked. His federal service file contains no court martial and no record of any federal execution or penalty. That absence is meaningful. Southern Illinois had vigilante bands in the mid-19th century, especially in Gallatin and the border counties. These groups took it upon themselves to punish deserters, thieves, and men considered disloyal to the Union.

Thus the most credible historical interpretation is that Leroy was not executed by the U.S. Army — but by men closer to home.

In a single life we see the arc of the Gibbs family in this era: a Kentucky birth, an early divorce, a second marriage rooted in the Illinois uplands, war service, desertion, and a probable vigilante killing. Leroy Henry Gibbs is a stark example of what the Civil War actually meant in the Illinois border counties: not only battles far away, but contested loyalty, neighbor against neighbor, and death delivered not by armies, but by a vigilante conception of justice.

From LeRoy's muster cards we see that he served almost 6 months to the day before deserting for unknown reasons while at Memphis Tennessee in 1863

Who Killed Leroy Gibbs?

By Don Boyd

First printed in Springhouse Magazine. springhousemagazine.com

In a small roadside cemetery in Mountain Township, designated both as the Moore Family and the Lambert Family Cemetery, lies the unmarked grave of Pvt. Leroy H. Gibbs, a soldier allegedly shot on the old Walden farm as a deserter in the Civil War and buried there. The cemetery is in the northwest quarter of Section 33.

The service record of Leroy H Gibbs from the National Archives show he was a Private in Company D, 120th Illinois Infantry. He enlisted August 15, 1862, at Shawneetown for a term of three years and was mustered in at Camp Butler, Springfield, Illinois on October 29, 1862.

In his file is a "Descriptive List of Deserters" showing Gibbs deserted February 23, 1863, at Memphis, Tenn. His physical description states he was 42 years old, height 5'2", eyes black, complexion dark, hair black. He was born at Stanford Co., Kentucky and was by occupation a farmer. However, the federal census records consistently indicate he was born in Tennessee.

There is no record of any effort by the Army to apprehend him and there was no record of any execution or court martial action in his service record.

The federal census record for 1850 shows him at age 26. His wife was Charlotte, and they had a two-year-old son, Joab, and a daughter, Nancy J, age 7 ½.

The federal census record for 1860 shows him age 36 and he, his wife, Joab and Nancy J., were joined by Cornelius, age 9, Druzilla, age 6, Marthy C., age 4 and Rebecca, age 10/12.

Another Gibbs family is listed nearby both years. This family was headed by Cornelius and Elizabeth Gibbs who had several children, one of whom was Cornelius. The frequency of the Cornelius name in both families suggest there may have been a close blood relationship and a tradition to name the boys Cornelius.

It is interesting to note there was no family listed as Walden in the census records to account for the place where Gibbs was shot. This is not to say there is no Walden family; it only says they did not get enumerated.

The 120th infantry did garrison and provost duty at Memphis, November 14, 1862, to May 1863 at which time it moved to Vicksburg for the siege there through July 1863.

Did the Army shoot Leroy H. Gibbs? Probably not. There is no record in the soldier's file of any such action. An Army detail would surely not be expected to execute a deserter without the due process of a court martial. Furthermore, it is not credible for the Army would invest the manpower needed to apprehend one deserter when men were needed so much more in the Vicksburg campaign which was about to get underway.

It should be remembered vigilante groups once operated in Pope, Hardin, Massac and Gallatin counties. Possibly the same is true of other counties. Mountain township of Saline County abuts Gallatin County. Could it be an overzealous vigilante group decided to apprehend Gibbs and return him to the Army or deal with him themselves? Vigilante groups do not have the reputation of observing the rules of due process, and some have been known to act almost as an uncontrollable mob.

Oral and local tradition states someone in the band who shot Gibbs remarked had they known he was so 'scrawny,' they would not have shot him. His height, 5'2", listed in his service record. "Descriptive List of Deserters" and this remark corroborate each other. Any Army detachment would have known his size and would not have said this. One wonders why the size of Gibbs would have matters as to whether he would be shot.

Why did he desert? No one knows. A man this small in height would not be expected to the robust, vigorous type associated with that soldier. The weight of the rifle carried by a Civil War infantryman would have been a challenge to a man 5'2". A man this small would have had trouble manipulating the ram rod of the Civil War rifle. A lot of men deserted to return home to help their families who were destitute. Maybe Gibbs' family needed him.

References:

John V. Murphy, *Cemeteries: Volume VI: Saline County, IL*, Saline County Genealogy Society, 1993, 65.

John W. Allen, *Legends and Lore of Southern Illinois*, Carbondale: Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, 1963, 246-7.



The circumstances of Leroy Gibbs's death are unclear and rest on a single secondary source rather than documentation. No military records, court proceedings, newspaper reports, or other Civil War-era sources have been found that confirm the manner of his death. The only reference appears in *Cemeteries: Volume VI* by John V. Murphy, which states that Leroy Gibbs, identified as a Civil War soldier, was "shot as a deserter on the old Walden Farm during the war" and buried at that location, based on information provided to the author by Mr. Hallie Cummins.

Despite the lack of official documentation describing the event itself, no records of any kind have been located that place Leroy Gibbs alive after 1863—no later census entries, tax records, military files, probate activity, or land transactions. This absence of subsequent records strongly suggests that he did, in fact, die during the war period described. While there is no known evidence that contradicts the account, the specific circumstances surrounding his death remain unverified and should be treated with appropriate caution until additional corroborating sources are discovered.

Class I comprises all persons subject to do military duty between the ages of twenty and thirty-five years, and all unmarried persons subject to do military duty above the age of thirty-five years and under the age of forty-five. Class II comprises all other persons subject to do military duty.

SCHEDULE II.—CONSOLIDATED LIST of all persons of CLASS II, subject to do military duty in the Thirteenth Congressional District, consisting of the Counties of _____ and _____ State of Illinois, enumerated during the month of June and July, 1863, under direction of Capt. Isaac S. Phillips, Provost Marshal.

RESIDENCE	NAME	DESCRIPTION			PLACE OF BIRTH. (Naming the State, Territory, or Country.)	FORMER MILITARY SERVICE	REMARKS
		AGE 1st July, 1863.	WHITE OR COLORED.	PROFESSION, OCCUPATION, OR TRADE.			
Galesburg	1 George John	41	colored	Farmer	Tennessee		1
	2 Glass James S.	39	white	"	Illinois		2
	3 Glass Francis S.	41	"	"	"		3
	4 Grisham Geo. W.	36	"	"	Tennessee		4
	5 Gallitt Samuel	40	"	"	"		5
	6 Gallitt Wm. E.	37	"	"	"		6
	7 Gilbert Albert R.	41	"	"	Illinois		7
Alexander Grand Pier	8 Gregory Ambrose	36	"	"	Tennessee		8
	9 Gwynn Elisha	42	"	"	"		9
Piana	10 Gibbs Leroy	40	"	"	Kentucky		10
	11 Gibbs Pleasant	43	"	"	Tennessee		11
	12 Gillespie John P.	39	"	"	S. Carolina		12
	13 Gray John M.	43	"	"	Tennessee		13
	14 Hascford Saml. M.	38	"	"	Pennsylvania		14

Leroy Henry Gibbs was reported as having deserted from Union service at Memphis, Tennessee, on February 24, 1863. While the circumstances surrounding this departure are not fully documented, such notations were common during the winter of 1862-1863, a period marked by illness, dislocation, and uneven recordkeeping within Union regiments operating along the Mississippi corridor.

Despite this desertion entry, Leroy and his brother Pleasant appear several months later on the federal "Enumeration of Men Subject to Military Duty" compiled in the Thirteenth Congressional District of Illinois during June and July 1863. This civil enrollment list, created under the Enrollment Act of 1863, recorded all men of eligible age residing in the district, regardless of prior service history or disciplinary status. His presence on this roll indicates that by mid-1863 Leroy had returned to his home community and was alive, residing locally, and subject to federal military obligation at that time.

This document is significant in establishing chronology. Family tradition and local lore report that Leroy was murdered after returning home, and the mid-1863 enrollment confirms that his death did not occur immediately following his departure from the army. Instead, it places his return—and his eventual death—several months after the February 1863 desertion, narrowing the window in which those final events must have occurred. While the precise circumstances of his death remain unverified, the enrollment record provides clear evidence that Leroy Henry Gibbs survived the winter of 1863 and lived long enough to be enumerated by federal authorities before his untimely death later that year.

A decorative border surrounds the central text. It consists of four corner squares and four side rectangles. The corner squares feature a complex interlocking knot design in gold on a green background. The side rectangles feature a repeating floral and foliate pattern in gold on a green background. The entire border is framed by a thin gold line.

CHAPTER 3

GREEN & ALEX
GIBBS



Thomas Greenberry "Green" Gibbs, born around 1826 in Kentucky, remains one of the more elusive Gibbs ancestors—central to lineage but largely missing from the historical record. The son of Cornelius Marion Gibbs, Green appears only intermittently in formal documentation. Very few direct records exist for him, and most of what is known is inferred from census placements, property proximity, and the genealogical presence of his children.

Green likely migrated into Pope and Saline Counties as a young man during the era of Kentucky-to-Illinois rural movement. If he was the same T. G. B. Gibbs who registered for militia duty in Illinois, this would suggest a general readiness for local defense, though there is no evidence that he ever served in Civil War military capacity. His life appears to have been tied to subsistence farming and localized rural trade, in the wooded landscapes near what is today the Shawnee National Forest.

Importantly, the final record definitively mentioning Green is the 1880 Federal Census. After 1880, he disappears from all surviving records—no probate filing, death record, newspaper reference, burial record, or other documentation is known to exist. For this reason, it can only be concluded that Green died sometime after 1880, certainly in southern Illinois, and likely among family, though the details of his final years are lost. His legacy persists primarily through his children and descendants, rather than personal documentation of his own life.



Lusk Creek, Pope County Illinois



T. G. B. Gibbs

b. 1826
d. after 1880



Permelia Williams

b. July 6 1831
d. after 1880



W. Alex Gibbs

b Sep 1846
d before 1900
m. Margaret Reynolds



Joseph N. Gibbs

b. Jan 1854
d. unknown
m. Eliza McAnnally



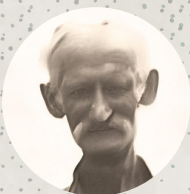
Charlotte Gibbs

b. Oct 20 1856
d. before 1900
m. John S Moore



John Q. A. Gibbs

b. about 1858
d. after 1880



Leander F. Gibbs

b. about 1861
d. April 8 1938
m. Ishmael Minerva Dunn



Thomas E. Gibbs

b. Nov 4 1866
d. Feb 14 1948
m. Lucy J Gibson



Minerva Gibbs

b. about 1868
d. Unknown



Sarah Gibbs

b. about 1870
d. Unknown



Lenora Gibbs

b. about 1874
d. Unknown



Militia Roll Record of Pope County

Manufacturers, Chicago.

for the Year 1862

Class Township 11, 6, E Class Concluded

No	Name	Age	Occupation	Remarks
72	E. L. Dixon	33	Farmer	at home
73	B. B. Williams	22	Do	In the service
74	J. M. Williams	18	Do	Do " Do
75	J. B. Gibbs	35	Do	at home
76	J. A. Wasson	42	Do	In the service, Died
77	A. E. Wasson	22	Do	Do " Do-
78	J. V. Wasson	21	Do	Do " Do
79	G. R. Reynolds	34	Do	Deaf at Home
80	W. A. Keeley	—	—	at Home

Township 12, Range 6 E

Militia Roll Record of Pope County Illinois for the Year 1862

CULVER, PAGE & HOYNE

Militia Roll Record Pope County, Illinois 1862

Green Gibbs appears on the 1862 Pope County Militia Roll, a list of men of military age compiled for local defense during the Civil War. His name is recorded alongside Greenberry "Gord" Williams and Francis Marion Williams brothers of Green's wife Permelia Williams, with all three residing near one another in Township 11 South, Range 6 East in Pope County, Illinois. Such militia rolls often reflected neighborhood groupings, suggesting the men were part of the same small rural community. Although Green Gibbs was listed as eligible for service in 1862, no record has been found indicating that he formally enlisted in a Union regiment or saw active military service during the war.

8 755	Mr Books	806	A. A. Hathaway
8 756	J. W. Wallace	807	W. J. Wasson
8 757	Shedrick McNew	808	Thomas G. Gibbs
8 758	W. J. Wallace	809	E. P. Gibbs
8 759	Samuel Cowsart	810	Geo. J. Shelby
8 760	Geo Jones	811	Ephraim Story
8 761	Geo. A. Wasson	812	Phillip West
8 762	August Neil	813	Mrs J. Ingoarin
8 763	Julius Metter	814	J. W. Bynum
8 764	Godfrey Rapsiller	815	Richard Bynum
8 765	C. J. Schneider	816	J. A. Baldwin
8 766		817	Geo. S. Crank
8 767			
8 768			
8 769			
8 770			
8 771			
8 772			
8 773			
8 774			
8 775			

“Greenberry” and Frontier Naming Traditions in Southern Illinois

The given name Greenberry—also spelled Greenbury or Green Berry—is uncommon today, yet it appears with notable frequency in nineteenth-century records from southern Illinois, particularly in rural counties settled by families migrating out of Kentucky and Tennessee. In these communities, distinctive given names were not unusual and often reflected local identity, family tradition, or cultural influence rather than formal naming conventions.

While Greenberry likely developed through vernacular use, it may have been indirectly influenced by the surname of Nicholas Greenberry (1640–1697), an English-born colonial official who served as governor of Maryland. Although no direct lineage connects most later bearers of the name to him, colonial surnames occasionally entered the pool of given names adopted by American families seeking distinction or continuity, especially on the frontier.

In southern Illinois, where extended kin networks often lived in close proximity and surnames repeated across households, a distinctive given name helped differentiate individuals across generations. Variants such as Green B., Greenbury, or Green Berry appear interchangeably in local records, reflecting the informal, largely oral naming practices common in the region.

This regional naming tradition also intersected with a strong culture of political and patriotic naming. In the decades following the Revolution and the War of 1812, southern Illinois families frequently named children after admired American leaders—particularly Andrew Jackson, whose frontier reputation resonated strongly in the region. After the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln’s name gained prominence among Union-leaning families in southern Illinois, further shaping local naming patterns.

Unlike European traditions that relied on saints’ names or rigid formulas, families in southern Illinois exercised considerable freedom in naming their children. The result was a distinctive local naming culture shaped by frontier mobility, political identity, and the practical realities of rural life—where names like Greenberry carried familiarity, individuality, and a sense of place within tightly knit communities.

Examples in our Family Tree:

NAME	BIRTH - DEATH	RELATIONSHIP TO AUTHOR
George Lincoln Gibbs	1929 - 2008	Grandfather
John Quincy Adams Gibbs	abt 1858 - Unknown	2X Great Granduncle
Mark Twain Gibbs	1943 - 2021	1 st Cousin 1X removed

LEANDER FRANCIS "LEE" GIBBS

Feb 10th 1861 - April 1938

Biography by Angie Wagner
2X Great granddaughter of Lee and Minerva Gibbs

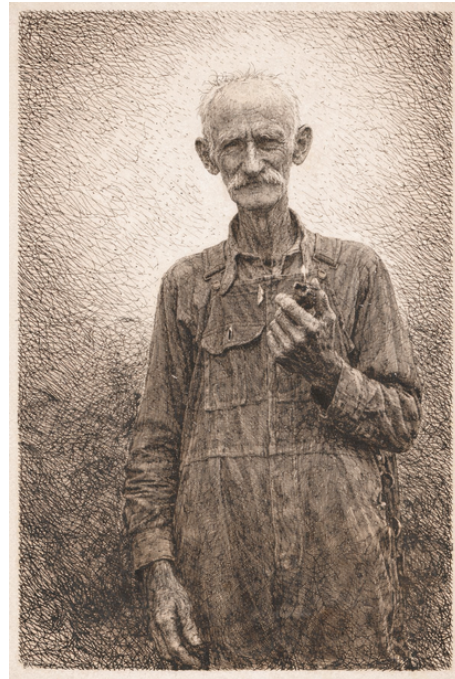
Leander Francis "Lee" Gibbs was born February 10, 1861, son of Thomas Greenberry Gibbs and Permelia Williams (daughter of Josiah Williams).

Little is known about Lee, but like many of the Gibbs he was a farmer and worked as a logger during the winter. He is remembered for being a rather quiet man who had a stutter and enjoyed cracking jokes.

Lee married Ishmael Minerva Dunn on November 6, 1884, in Saline County, IL. Minerva's father, James (Jim) Henry Dunn, was a Sergeant for the Union during the Civil War. He was honorably discharged due to illness on June 15, 1863. Jim never fully recovered from his illness and passed away in January 1874 in Johnson County, IL. Minerva was only 10 and her youngest sibling was just two months old. His widow, Julia moved the family back to Independence in Saline County after his death. Sadly, in 1880, Julia would pass away leaving Minerva (age 16) and her five younger siblings orphaned. In 1889, Lee took guardianship of his young brother and sisters-in-law who were able to collect their deceased father's pension. Evidenced in the court records, Lee signed his name, which proved he received an education of some degree.

Lee and Minerva had eight children: Robert Shirlen, Fannie Bell, Ivy, Scilda, Bertha, Roxy and Bessie (all born in Saline County, IL). The family moved to Advance in southeast Missouri between May 1899 and June 1900, where their youngest daughter, Myrtle, was born.

Robert Shirlin, who went by "Charles" was a rather rough character. In April 1914, the day he was moving out of his rental property, the new renter Frank Surface also arrived. Per the Bloomfield-Vindicator, Frank threw some seeds through a kitchen window (or so the story goes), which angered Robert as he felt Frank was trying to take early possession. A scuffle ensued, resulting in Robert fatally stabbing Frank in the stomach.



Robert then fled the country and was not heard from for over a year. Lee was able to locate Robert, who was said to be near the Canadian border, and convinced him to turn himself in. A \$200 reward had been placed on Robert, which was awarded to Lee. Robert was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to two years in the state penitentiary. Frank Surface was the father of Robert's sister Roxy's first husband. Fred Creed, who was helping Robert move out, also got caught up in the scuffle, but pleaded self-defense and charges were dropped. Fred would later marry Robert's sister, Bessie, in 1916.

Robert's departure from this earth had a tragic ending. In January 1958, he went hunting and did not return. His body was discovered a few days later. While his death certificate lists "coronary occlusion" (heart attack) as his cause of death, family lore says he was climbing over a fence and tripped, resulting in his shotgun firing, ending his life.

Lee, Minerva, Myrtle and Roxy and her son, Arthur, are buried in Crews cemetery in Advance (f/k/a Toga), Missouri. Their graves have not been identified as there are no grave markers nor cemetery records. Lee's exact death date is unknown. However, in Minerva's obituary from December 1938, it states Lee passed in April of the same year.



Photo Courtesy: Angie Wagner

Leander Francis "Lee" Gibbs, son of T.G.B. Gibbs
with wife, Ishmael Minerva Dunn



Photo Courtesy: Angie Wagner

Robert Sherlin "Charles" Gibbs
Son of Leander and Ishmael Gibbs

FRANK SURFACE OF NEAR PARADISE, PROB- ABLY FATALLY CUT.

Last Tuesday morning Charles Gibbs and Frank Surface became involved in a difficulty north of Ringer Hill, near Paradise, in the northeast part of the county. We learn that Surface was badly injured, some of his intestines being partially severed.

It appears that Surface had rented a farm on which Gibbs had been living. Gibbs was moving out and Surface was preparing to move in. Surface wanted to sow some seeds of some kind, and took them to the farm. He raised a window and placed the seeds in the house on the farm. This angered Gibbs, who seemed to resent Surface's action of taking possession before he was out. It is said that Gibbs attacked Surface with an ax handle, which Surface succeeded in taking from him. He then attacked Surface with a knife and cut him as stated above. It is feared that Surface's wounds will prove fatal.

We learn that a son of Surface is married to a sister of Gibbs.

As we go to press we are informed of the death of Mr. Surface at 4 p. m., Thursday. No arrest has as yet been made, but Sheriff Barnham offers \$100 reward for the apprehension of Gibbs.—Bloomfield Vindicator.

The Farmington Times

Farmington, Missouri · Friday, April 17, 1914

**MRS. GIBBS DIES AT
DAUGHTER'S HOME**

Mrs. Ishwell Minerva Gibbs died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John McBride, in Mesler last Thursday at the age of 74 years, 7 months and 1 day. Funeral services were conducted at the home in Mesler Friday by Elder J. Reynolds. Interment was in the Crews cemetery near Advance, Morgan service.

Mrs. Gibbs was a native of Illinois. As a girl she united with the Social Brethren church at Cedar Bluff, Ill. The Gibbs' during Mr. Gibbs' lifetime lived near Advance. Since his death in April of this year she had made her home with this daughter. Other surviving children are Mrs. Bessie Creed of Chaffee, Robert Sherlin, and Bertha at home. She also leaves seven grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.



Roxy Gibbs, daughter of Lee and Minerva
holding unknown child



Scilda Gibbs, daughter of Lee and Minerva



Birdie Mae (Gibbs) Nelson
Daughter of Robert Sherlin "Charles" Gibbs



Photo Courtesy: Angie Wagner

Fred Creed and Bessie Gibbs on their wedding day



Photo Courtesy: Angie Wagner

William Lee "Willie" Gibbs 1929
Grandson of Leander and Ishmael Gibbs



Americus D. Gibbs (right), son of Thomas E. Gibbs with his wife Mary Etta Bebout and son Parvin Gibbs on his wedding day, 1958



William Alexander "Alex" Gibbs, born in 1858, son of Green and grandson of Cornelius, is similarly defined by a sparse documentary footprint. Like the generations before him, Alex spent his life rooted in the same southern Illinois landscape shaped by migration, landholding, and close-knit kin networks. He appears to have followed the quiet rhythm of rural life, defined more by labor, family responsibility, and community presence than by written record. The fragments of his existence that reach us come primarily from census data, genealogical connections, and land-family adjacency, rather than robust personal records or firsthand accounts.

Alex married **Margaret Reynolds**, and together they had **Thomas Wayne Gibbs**, born in 1889. This is one of the clearest surviving data points linking Alex directly into the documented Gibbs paternal line and continuing the generational thread established by his forebears. Yet even here, personal traces remain minimal, reflecting a life lived largely outside the reach of formal institutions.

Crucially, Alex does not appear in the 1900 Federal Census, while Margaret and their son Thomas do. This strongly suggests that Alex died sometime before 1900, although no death certificate, mortality schedule entry, burial record, or newspaper notice has yet surfaced to confirm the date or manner of his passing. In this, Alex reflects a broader pattern common to rural men of the era: a life lived fully within a community, yet barely touched by formal documentation.



Illustration of what a rural Pope County farm may have looked like circa 1860s



W. Alexander Gibbs

b. Sep 1846
d. before 1900



Margaret Reynolds

b. Jan 1856
d. Apr 4 1935



Charles Gibbs

b. April 1876
d. Unknown



Stella Gibbs

b. 1879
d. Unknown



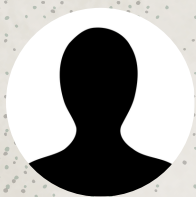
J. Harve Gibbs

b. Dec 14 1880
d. Nov 28 1960
m. Cora Lee Cummins



Cora E. Gibbs

b. June 1882
d. 1917
m. Joseph Lee Sullivan



Virgil Gibbs

b. Nov 12 1884
d. Feb 20 1921
m. Rose Conoway



Tom Gibbs

b. Aug 11 1889
d. Nov 11 1957
m. Gertie Mattingly



Frankie Gibbs

b. May 1891
d. March 25 1910



Amelia Gibbs

b. Sep 13 1892
d. March 27 1976
m. Otto F. Jennings



STATE OF ILLINOIS,
Saline COUNTY.

The People of the State of Illinois, to any person
legally authorized to Solemnize Marriage—GREETING:

Marriage may be Celebrated Between Mr. William A. Gibbs of
in the County of Pope and State of Illinois of the age of twenty six years,
and Miss Margaret Reynolds of Independence Precinct in the County of Saline
and State of Illinois of the age of nineteen years.

WITNESS Warner E. Bennett County Clerk, and the seal of said
County, at his office in Harrisburg in said County, this 3d
day of November A. D. 1875

Warner E. Bennett County Clerk.

STATE OF ILLINOIS,
Saline COUNTY, ss.

I, George P. Keith, a Minister of the Gospel
hereby certify that Mr. William A. Gibbs and
Miss Margaret A. Reynolds were united in Marriage by me at my Residence
in the County of Saline and State of Illinois, on the 4th day of Nov. in A. D. 1875

George P. Keith
Minister

MARRIAGE AFFIDAVIT.

STATE OF ILLINOIS,
COUNTY OF Saline, ss.

In the Office of the Clerk of the County Court of said County.

Felix Owen of the County of Pope and State of Illinois, who has
this day applied to me for License of Marriage, being duly sworn, deposes and says that William A. Gibbs
has arrived at the age of nineteen years, and that Miss Margaret Reynolds has arrived at the age
of 19 years; that they, the parties for whom said application is made, are now single and unmarried, and may lawfully
contract and be joined in marriage.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 3rd day of November A. D. 1875—

Felix Owen
Warner E. Bennett
Clerk County Court.

The marriage of Alexander Gibbs and Margaret Reynolds was solemnized on November 4, 1875, in Independence Precinct, Saline County, Illinois. The ceremony was performed by George P. Keith, Minister of the Gospel, and took place at his residence, reflecting the common nineteenth-century practice of clergy conducting marriages in their homes, particularly in sparsely populated agricultural districts. At the time of their marriage, Alexander was twenty-six years of age and Margaret was nineteen. A wedding held at a minister's house in southern Illinois during this period would likely have been modest and intimate, attended by a small gathering of close family members, neighbors, and possibly a few witnesses required by law. The ceremony itself was typically brief and solemn, consisting of spoken vows, a declaration of marriage by the minister, and often a prayer or short scriptural reading. Margaret may have worn her best dress rather than a specially made gown, as elaborate bridal attire was uncommon in rural communities. Following the ceremony, it was customary for family members to share a simple meal or small celebration, marking the occasion with quiet fellowship rather than formal reception. Such ceremonies reflected the practical realities of frontier life, where marriage was both a deeply personal milestone and a communal affirmation witnessed by those closest to the couple.

SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in Town No 11 P. 8 in the County of Hardin State
of Illinois enumerated by me, on the 31 day of July 1860. A. Young Ass't Marshal.
Post Office Clay City, Mo.

Dwelling-houses— numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	VALUE OF ESTATE OWNED.		Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Persons over 20 years of age who cannot read & write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
			Age.	Sex.	White, black, or mulatto.		Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1		Elizabeth Stratton	62	F		Superior			Ill				
2		Hideon	28	M		Day laborer			Ill				
3		John	22	M		"			Ohio				
4		Caroline	20	F		Servant			"				
5		Wm E.	1	F					Ill				
6	462 462	Green Gibbs	34	M		Day laborer		60	Mo				
7		Pemelia	29	F		Wife			Ill				
8		Alex	10	M					Ill				
9		Josiah	6	M					Mo				
10		Charlotte	4	F					Ill				
11		J. L. Adams	2	M					"				
12	463 463	Wm. A. Griffith	35	M					Ind			1	
13		Harriet	29	F					Ill				
14		Wm. A.	6	M					"			1	

Comparing the 1860 Federal Census (above) to the 1870 Federal Census (below) we are able to see documentation of the growing family of Green Gibbs and Pemelia Williams Gibbs including their son and our direct ancestor, Alexander Gibbs

Page No. 5 } Inquiries numbered 7, 16, and 17 are not to be asked in respect to infants. Inquiries numbered 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 are to be answered (if at all) merely by an affirmative mark, as /.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Tp 10 R 6 E, in the County of Hardin, State
of Illinois, enumerated by me on the 5th day of July, 1870. 537
Post Office: Independence, Mo. P. S. Stricklin, Ass't Marshal.

Dwelling-houses, numbered in the order of visitation.	Families, numbered in the order of visitation.	The name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of June, 1870, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.	VALUE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED.		Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S.; or the Country, if of foreign birth.	PARENTAGE.		If born within the year, state month (Jan., Feb., &c.)	If married within the year, state month (Jan., Feb., &c.)	Attended school within the year.	EDUCATION.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	CONSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS.	
			Age at last birth-day, if under 1 year, give month in fraction, thus, 1/2	Sex.	Color—White (W.), Black (B.), Mulatto (M.), Indian (I.)		Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.		Father of foreign birth.	Mother of foreign birth.						Male Citizens of U. S. of 21 years of age and up.	Male Citizens of U. S. of 21 years of age and up, who are not citizens of U. S. by birth, but who are naturalized or have been declared or admitted to naturalization or other citizenship.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	20
		Sarah	40	F	W	Keeping House			Ill					1	1			
		Shewell Sarah	21	F	W	Teaching School			Ill									
37	37	Gibbs Green	45	M	W	Farmer			Ill								1	
		Pemelia	40	F	W	Keeping House			"					1	1			
		Alexander	12	M	W	At Home			"					1	1		1	
		Joseph	17	M	W	"			"					1	1			
		Charlotte	14	F	W	"			"					1	1			
		John P. A.	12	M	W	"			"					1	1			
		Leander	8	M	W	"			"									
		Shos.	5	M	W	"			"									
		Marion	2	F	W	"			"									
38	38	Madeline Lewis	27	M	W	Farmer		200	"								1	



Photo Courtesy: Jime & Beth Williams

James Harvey "Harve" Gibbs with cousin James Pleasant "J.P." Williams. Circa 1948

Death Takes Mrs. James Harve Gibbs; Funeral Wednesday

Mrs. Cora Lee Gibbs, 82, widow of James Harve Gibbs, died at her home on RFD 4, Harrisburg Monday at 12:15 p. m.

She is survived by three sons, Amos Gibbs, Vienna, Otto Gibbs and Clyde Gibbs at home and two daughters, Mrs. Dovie Hamilton, Evansville, and Mrs. Lottie James of Salinas, Calif., and a twin sister, Mrs. Flora Mott, Bell City, Mo.

The body is at the Gibbons Funeral Home, where funeral services will be held Wednesday at 2 p. m. The Rev. Roy Jennings and the Rev. Ernest Dopp will officiate and burial will be in Gossage Cemetery.

The Daily Register

Harrisburg, Illinois • Tue, Mar 20, 1962 Page 1

Birthday Dinner Honors Three at Gibbs Home

A birthday dinner was held Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harve Gibbs, RFD 4, in honor of their son-in-law, Roy Johnson, Miss Violet Cornell, Evansville, and Harve Gibbs. A bountiful dinner was enjoyed by the following:

Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Prather and children, Onida, Willard and Lindell; Mrs. Ella Hunt and sons, Fred and Clyde; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. Harve Gibbs and sons, Amos, Otto and Clyde and son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Johnson, and daughter, Lorine Hamilton, of Phoenix, Arizona.

The Daily Register

Harrisburg, Illinois • Wed, Dec 17, 1947 Page 3



Harve Gibbs and wife
Cora Lee Cummins Gibbs
Circa 1955

No. 3153

Marriage License.

MINOR.

Harve Gibbs
AND
Cora Cummins

Issued July 14 1903

Renewed " 15 1903

Returned " 29 1903

Registered April 15 1904

On Page 92 of Marriage Register.

Filed July 29 1903

By Joseph Lay Clerk.

Deputy.

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH REGISTER.

B. Page 67

W. B. M. PRINTING CO., PRINTERS AND STATIONERS, DANVILLE, ILL.

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

Return of a Marriage to County Clerk.

1. Full name of Groom, Harve Gibbs.
2. Place of residence, Blanchard
3. Occupation, farming
4. Age next birthday, 23 years. Color, white. Race, am
5. Place of birth, Pope Co. Ill.
6. Father's name, Alex Gibbs
7. Mother's maiden name, Margaret Reynolds
8. Number of groom's marriage, 1
9. Full name of BRIDE, Cora Cummins
- Maiden name, if a widow, _____
10. Place of Residence, Blanchard
11. Age next birthday, 24 years. Color, white. Race, am
12. Place of birth, Saline Co. Ill.
13. Father's name, William A. Cummins
14. Mother's maiden name, Adia Oliver
15. Number of bride's marriage, 1
16. Married at Adia Cummins in the County of Pope and State of Illinois, the 15th day of July 1903
17. Witnesses to marriage, Adia Oliver, P. S. Hart

N. B.—At Nos. 8 and 15 state whether 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, &c., marriage of each. At 17 give names of subscribing witnesses to the Marriage Certificate. If no subscribing witnesses, give names of two persons who witnessed the ceremony.

190
We hereby certify that the information above given is correct, to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Harve Gibbs (Groom.)
Cora Cummins (Bride.)

I hereby certify that the above is a correct return of a Marriage solemnized by me.

Dated at _____ this _____ day of _____ 190

RUDEMENT.
Ask Harve Gibbs if he ever got left.
Ask Louis Bramlet if he ever got beat.
Lillie Wallace visited our school, Friday.
William Mitchell was in this part Thursday.
Ask Rosa Wallace if she likes to write valentines.
Elbert Estes and wife visited his father, Wednesday.
Miss Daid Saddler was at literary last Thursday night.
Elijah Gibbons paid J. H. Estes a call, Wednesday.
Ed. Cummins says, "Hurrah for the Saddler hustler."

The brief line, "Ask Harve Gibbs if he ever got left," in the March 2, 1900 issue of the Saline County Register was almost certainly intended as good-natured teasing rather than serious commentary. Small-town newspapers around 1900 often included playful "locals" columns filled with inside jokes, light jabs, and social banter aimed at young people in the community. Remarks like this—paired with similar quips about others in the same column—suggest friendly ribbing about a social event where someone may have been jokingly "left" without a partner or ride. This entry in the locals column for Rudement reflects the informal humor and close-knit character of rural life, where such teasing was a familiar and affectionate part of community interaction.

Saline County Register
Harrisburg, Illinois - March, 2 1900, page 4

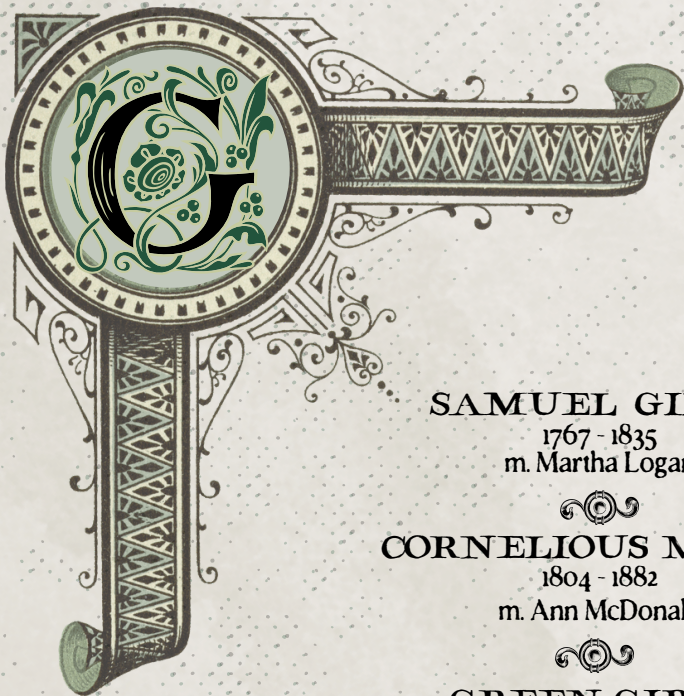


Grandparents of Margaret E Reynolds: David Alexander Reynolds born about 1801, North Carolina. Died October 30th 1853, Saline County, Illinois

Luticia Nakisha Sutton born about 1806, Chattanooga, Tennessee,
Died January 25th 1894, Saline County, Illinois



Page from Jonathan Uriah Reynolds family Bible documenting the passing of his parents, David Reynolds and Lutitia Sutton Reynolds.



SAMUEL GIBBS

1767 - 1835
m. Martha Logan



CORNELIOUS M. GIBBS

1804 - 1882
m. Ann McDonald



GREEN GIBBS

1826 - abt 1880

JOHN WILLIAMS

1786 - 1860
m. Mary Coleman



JOSIAH WILLIAMS

1808 - 1863
m. Hannah Hathaway



PERMELIA WILLIAMS

1831 - abt 1880



WILLIAM ALEXANDER "ALEX" GIBBS

1846 - Before 1900
m. Margaret Reynolds



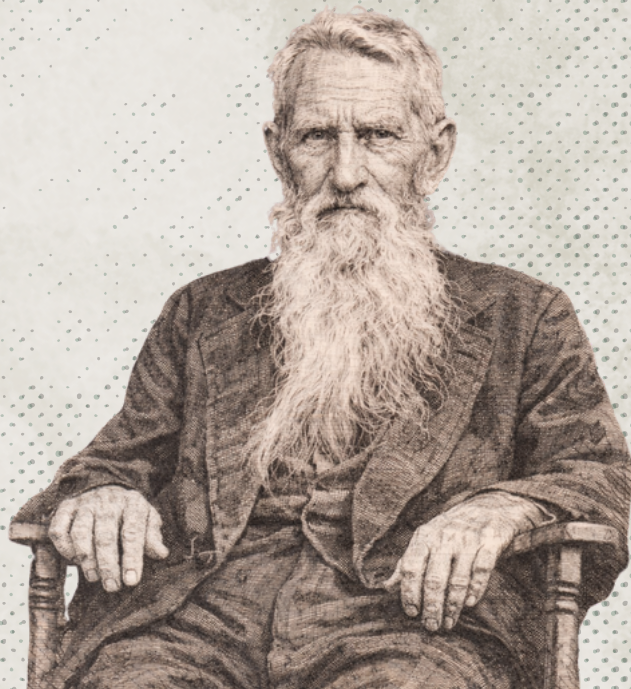
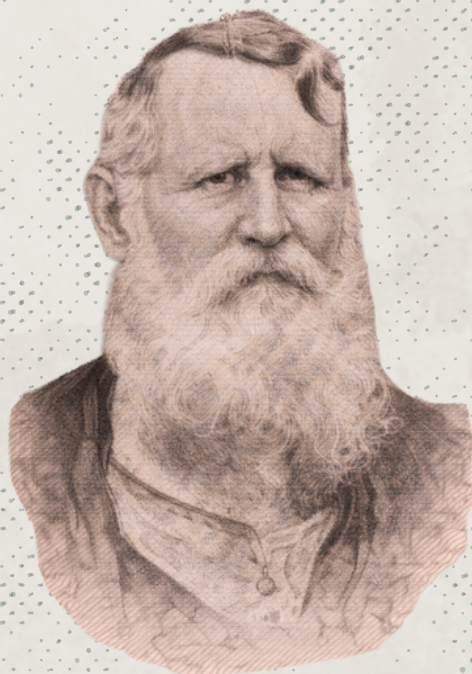
THOMAS WAYNE GIBBS

1889 - 1957
m. Mary Gertrude "Gertie" Mattingly



GEORGE LINCOLN GIBBS

1929 - 2008
m. Barbara Jean Cook



A decorative border surrounds the central text. It consists of four corner squares and four side rectangles. The corner squares feature a complex interlocking knot design with a central flower. The side rectangles have a repeating floral and foliate pattern. All elements are in shades of green and gold.

CHAPTER 4

JOHN, JOSIAH & G. B.
WILLIAMS

To understand the Gibbs story in southern Illinois, one must understand the Williams. These two families became so deeply intermarried that their genealogies cannot be separated cleanly. The Williams are not a “cousin branch” or a neighboring surname that occasionally appears in records — they are a structural partner lineage that reinforced, supported, and intersected the Gibbs line over multiple generations.

The strongest and most consequential single link is the marriage of **Thomas Greenberry “Green” Gibbs** to **Permelia Williams**, daughter of **Josiah Williams**. That union alone places the Williams directly into the core of the Gibbs ancestry. But the relationship strengthened even further when Green Gibbs’ brother, **Pleasant M. Gibbs** 2nd marriage was to **Phoebe Williams**, sister of Permelia and Gord Williams. **Greenberry “Gord” Williams** who would then go on to marry Pleasant’s daughter through his first marriage, **Sarah Jane Gibbs**. This is an unusually tight kin-network: two Gibbs brothers married two Williams sisters. A Williams brother then married a Gibbs daughter. In genealogical terms, this creates a horizontal AND vertical interlock between the families. Their descendants are not just cousins; they are linked through layered, repeating blood ties.

These marriages reflect how frontier settlement functioned in real life. Families did not form randomly on the frontier. They migrated as networks. They bought land near people they trusted, joined churches with familiar surnames, and arranged marriages within reliable community circles.

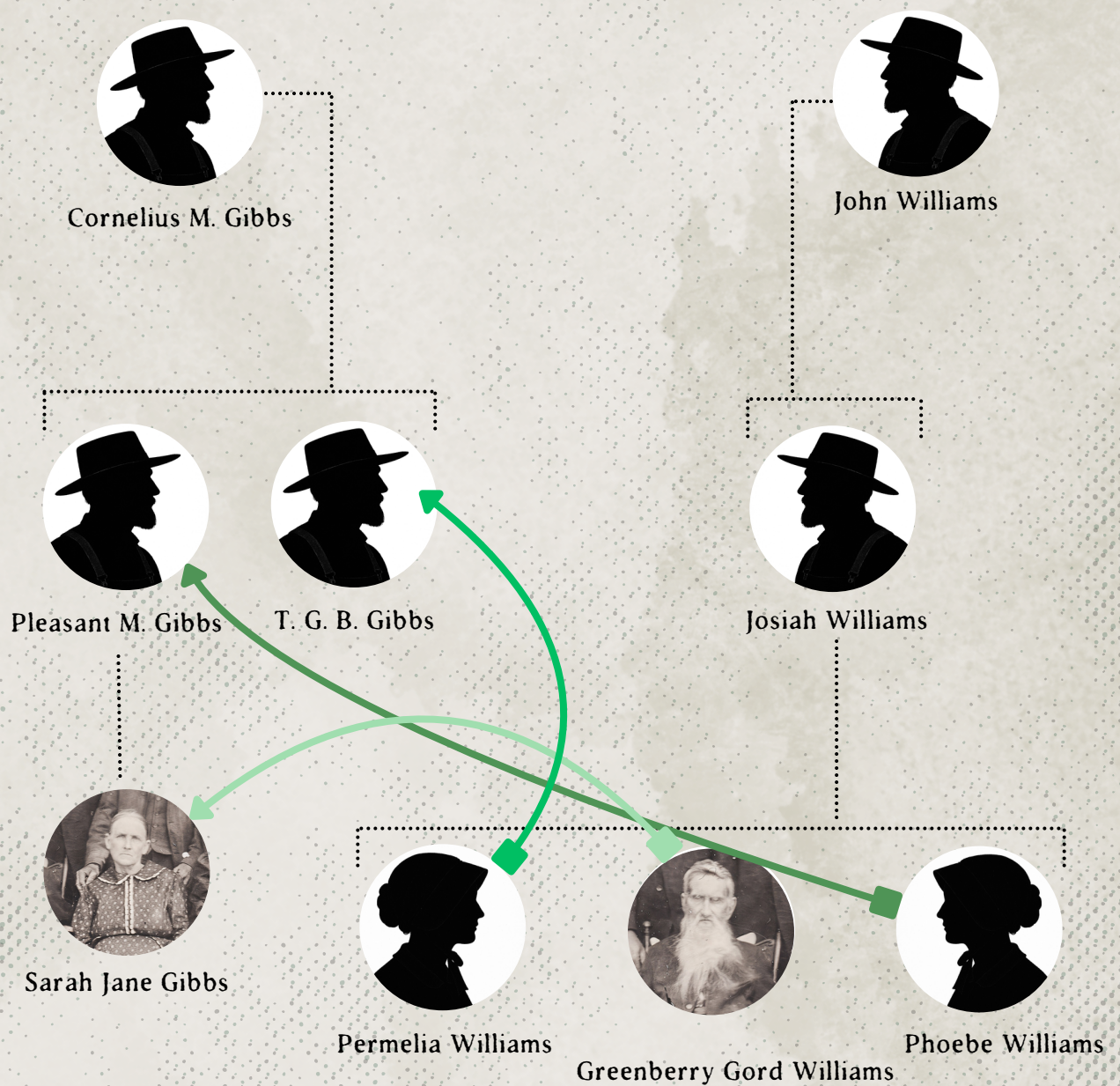
In Pope and Saline Counties, the Williams and the Gibbs formed one of these fused clusters. The presence of a Williams family living near a Gibbs family in a census or land patent is not coincidence — it is a community structure.

This intermarriage has major genealogical consequences. In periods where documentation for the early Gibbs line is thin — as is the case with Green and Alex— the Williams records often help confirm time, place, and social adjacency. In other words: the Williams function as an anchor point. They appear in the same localities, the same church spheres, and the same township neighborhoods. Their paper trails stabilize the Gibbs paper trails.

For this reason, the Williams should not be treated as a side topic in the Gibbs story. They are a central partner family. The shared bloodline resulting from multiple Gibbs–Williams marriages means that the history of one cannot be fully told without the other. Both families helped build the same sections of land, raised children in the same creek valleys, and together formed part of the kin-based fabric of southern Illinois.

The Williams family, therefore, is not an appendix to the Gibbs narrative. They are one of the foundational pillars that explain who the Gibbs married, who they lived beside, and who they trusted. Without the Williams, the full genealogical identity of the Gibbs in southern Illinois cannot be properly understood.

Intermarriage of THE GIBBS & WILLIAMS FAMILIES



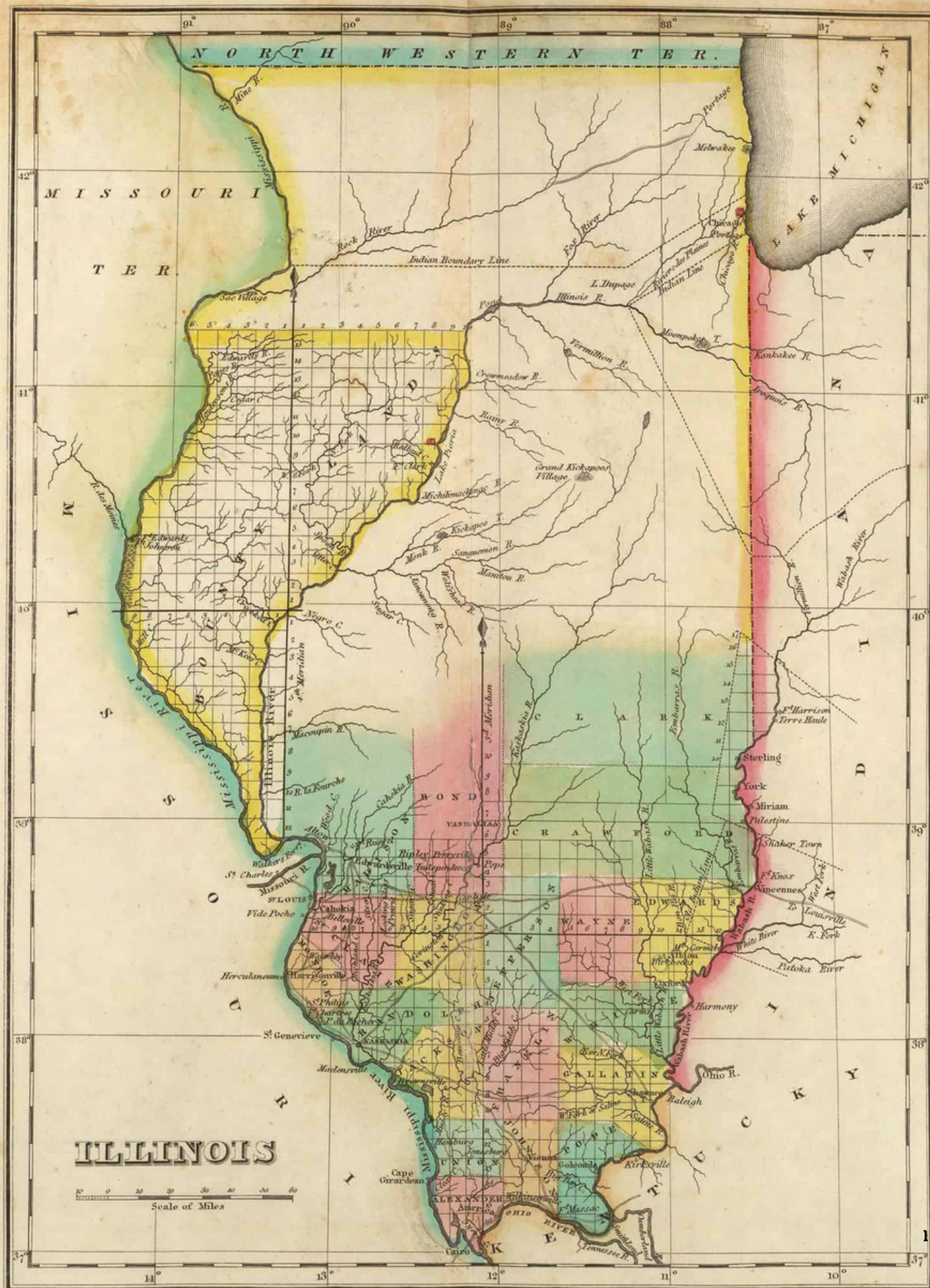


moses williams and
 susanna his wife was mar-
 ried the 1 day of June 1783
 david williams was born
 december the 17 day 1784
 john williams was born
 march the 5 day 1786
 jary williams was born
 march the 3 day 1788
 susanna williams was
 born october the 23 day 1790
 martha williams was
 born october the 17 day 1791
 jessie williams was born
 october the 27 day 1794
 nancy williams was
 born the 18 day of Septem-
 ber 1796

John Williams stands at the head of the Williams family line in Southern Illinois. Born March 5, 1786, in Virginia, his lifetime spanned one of the most transformative eras in American history, carrying him from the eastern seaboard into the raw interior of the young republic. As population pressure and opportunity pushed families westward, Williams joined the steady movement across the Appalachians and into the Illinois frontier, a landscape still shaped more by custom and necessity than by formal institutions. His arrival marked the beginning of the family's long association with the region, placing him among the earliest settlers to convert unsettled land into farms, households, and enduring community roots.

When John Williams entered Illinois, he stepped into a world that was only loosely governed and often unstable. County lines were fluid, courts were distant or newly established, and authority rested as much in local reputation and collective will as in written law. This was a frontier society where disputes could be settled by neighbors as readily as by magistrates, and where survival demanded adaptability, resilience, and a willingness to enforce order when none yet existed. John Williams's life unfolded within this environment, shaped by the realities of frontier justice and communal enforcement, and it was under these conditions that the Williams family took root—laying the foundation for generations who would remain tied to southern Illinois long after the frontier itself had faded.

GEOGRAPHICAL, STATISTICAL, AND HISTORICAL MAP OF ILLINOIS.



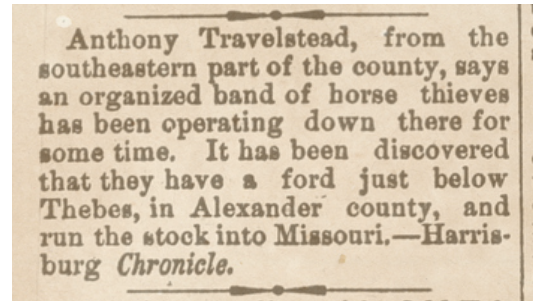
ILLINOIS

A Lawless Frontier

In the early 1800s, Southern Illinois was a frontier region, sparsely populated and largely beyond the immediate reach of organized law enforcement. This lack of formal justice structures, combined with rugged terrain and a growing population of settlers, created an environment ripe for vigilantism. Vigilante groups, often composed of local citizens, formed to address crime, punish perceived wrongdoers, and maintain order in their communities—sometimes through violent or extralegal means.

Southern Illinois, known colloquially as "Little Egypt," was settled largely by migrants from the Upper South, specifically Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia including our ancestors in the **Mattingly** and **Williams** families followed later in the mid 1800's by the **Gibbs**. These settlers brought with them a sense of honor, culture and a mistrust of centralized authority, which helped shape local attitudes toward justice. When theft, murder, or other crimes occurred, the absence of effective law enforcement meant that communities often felt compelled to take matters into their own hands. Vigilante groups acted as judge, jury, and executioner, operating outside the boundaries of territorial or state law.

One of the earliest and most notorious examples of vigilante justice in Southern Illinois was in response to the criminal activities of gangs such as the Ford's Ferry Gang and the Sturdivant Gang, which operated in the Ohio River valley and across the lower part of the state.



Anthony Travelstead is the granduncle of Gertie Mattingly Gibbs. (Gertie's mother's mother's brother) and purchased land from Cornelious Gibbs Sr.. Anthony's son, William P. Travelstead, boarded my great grandfather Tom W. and Virgil Gibbs in the 1900 census.

These groups engaged in counterfeiting, horse theft, robbery, and even murder. In response, local residents formed posses sometimes known as "Regulators" to drive out or kill suspected criminals. These efforts were sometimes applauded by settlers but often descended into cycles of violence and retribution.

The Illinois frontier, like much of the American frontier, was steeped in a tradition of community-led justice. While some vigilantes saw themselves as protectors of the public good, others used the cloak of justice to settle personal grudges or seize property. The lack of oversight or appeal processes meant that innocent people could, and did, fall victim to mob justice. Lynchings, tar-and-featherings, and forced exiles were not uncommon.

By the 1830s and 1840s, as Southern Illinois became more settled and institutions such as sheriffs, courts, and jails became more reliable, vigilante actions began to decline—but they did not disappear entirely. The vigilante ethos left a lasting mark on the region, contributing to a culture of rugged individualism and skepticism of government authority. In many ways, early vigilantism in Southern Illinois reflects the challenges of transitioning from a lawless frontier to a society governed by rule of law.

The story of vigilantes in early 19th-century Southern Illinois is ultimately one of complexity: community members balancing survival, justice, and fear in a lawless land. While some acts were driven by a sincere desire for safety and order, others were shaped by prejudice, revenge, or greed. Understanding this period offers insight into the roots of American attitudes toward justice, authority, and the right to defend one's community when formal systems fall short.



Lusk Creek Wilderness
Shawnee National Forest

STATE of Illinois, Pope county. We the undersigned householders of said county, being duly sworn by John Baldwin, a justice of the peace, on oath report that we find the horse taken up by John Williams, in Monroe township, on the waters of Lusk's creek, in the state and county above mentioned, to be a **BAY HORSE**, supposed to be twelve or thirteen years old, about fourteen hands and a half high, some saddle spots on both sides of his back, hipshot in his near hip, a natural trotter; no other brands or marks perceivable, and do appraise said horse to the sum of thirty dollars, this 12th day of May, 1832. Given under our hands and seals.

Jonathan Floyd, [Seal.]
James Williams, [Seal.]

Sworn to before me the above written day and date.

John Baldwin, J. P.

I do certify the above to be a true statement taken from my stray docket. Given under my hand and seal this 12th day of May, 1832. John Baldwin, J. P.
Recorded this 15th day of May, 1832.

12 Test. GEO. W. WATERS, Ck c. c. c. p. c.

STATE of Illinois, Pope county. We the undersigned householders of said county, being duly sworn by John Baldwin, a justice of the peace for said county, on our oaths do report that we find the two horse beasts taken up by James Williams, in Monroe township, on the waters of Lusk's creek, in the state and county above mentioned to be estrays, and the description is as follows: one is a chestnut sorrel **MARE**, supposed to be nine or ten years old, fifteen hands one inch high, with a long star in her forehead and snip on her nose, and a scar on her right thigh near her flank, thought to be occasioned by a burn, racks and trots well; no other marks or brands perceivable, and do appraise the said mare to forty-five dollars. The other is an **IRON GRAY**, supposed to be two years old, about thirteen hands and a half high; no other brands or marks perceivable, and do appraise the said filly to 25 dollars. Given under our hands and seals this 12th day of May, 1832. Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and date above written.

Jonathan Floyd,
John Williams.

John Baldwin, J. P.

I do certify the above to be a true statement from my stray docket. Given under my hand and seal this 12th day of May, 1832. John Baldwin, J. P.

Recorded this 15th day of May, 1832.

12 Test. GEO. W. WATERS, Ck c. c. c. p. c.

Vandalia Whig and Illinois Intelligencer
Vandalia, Illinois · Wednesday, June 06, 1832

GENERATED

Estray notices from May 1832 place both John Williams and James Williams independently residing in Monroe Township on Lusk Creek, each taking up stray livestock together on the same day. These notices demonstrate the presence of at least two adult Williams men operating as householders in the same locality, strongly indicating a closely related family group established in Pope County by this date. The proximity in time and place, as well as their parallel participation in the same legal process, suggests that John and James Williams were likely members of the same immediate family—most plausibly father and son, or brothers—though the precise relationship is not possible to confirm through the information provided.

A striking window into that world appears in the 1819 counterfeiting case involving James Steele and John Williams in Franklin and Pope Counties, an episode that illustrates how easily ordinary settlers could become entangled in serious crimes on the early Illinois frontier, where opportunity, desperation, and weak oversight often intersected.

Steele (sometimes spelled Steel) had served in the War of 1812 as a private in Captain John Cochran's company of the 1st Regiment of Illinois Militia. By 1818 he was living in Pope County and had become involved with the Sturdivant Gang, a multigenerational family of counterfeitters operating along the Ohio River. Their fortified base — known as Sturdivant's Fort — stood on a bluff above the river in what is now Rosiclare, Hardin County. The Sturdivants took advantage of the chaotic money system of the 1810s-1820s, forging notes and casting coins in a region with few banks, poor roads, scattered law enforcement, and limited means for ordinary citizens to distinguish legitimate currency from fraud.

When this case arose in 1819, counterfeiting had just shifted in Illinois from a capital offense to a lesser, though still severe, punishment. Under the act passed by the first Illinois General Assembly at Kaskaskia (27 February 1819), the penalty for counterfeiting was set at \$500, 75 lashes, and loss of the ability to hold office or testify in court. These punishments tell us as much about the frontier as the crime itself: the law did exist — but it was enforced by whoever could enforce it. Sturdivant's Fort was a literal fortress with a blockhouse, stockade, and cannon. Local authority had to deal with organized criminal defense as much as criminal offense. It took multiple raids in 1822 and 1823 to finally drive the Sturdivants out.

FRANKLIN &
POPE COUNTIES,
ILLINOIS

JAMES STEELE VS

ALFRED DILLARD, ANDREW G STORM, WILLIS STUCKER,
DANIEL FIELD, THOMAS JONES, ROBERT HANCOCK, FRANCIS
MOON, JOHN WILLIAMS, JAMES WILLIAMSON, HENRY
VANDIKE, JOHN BOWMAN, SAMUEL ALEXANDER, ISHOM CLAY
SR.

James Steele
vs
Alfred Dillard, Andrew G. Storm,
Willis Stucker, Daniel Field,
Thomas Jones, Robert Hancock,
Francis Moon, John Williams,
James Williamson, Henry Vandike,
John Bowman, Samuel Alexander,
Ishom Clay Senr.

In the Pope Circuit Court
Nov. Term 1819.

I do hereby enter my self
Security for Costs in the
above cause agreeable
to Law. Given under my
hand and seal this 7th day
of Sept. 1819—

Alexander Parkerson {seal
L.V.

Test
Joshua Scott,

[Pope County Court Record: 1819-CC-190]



A group of Regulators in Pope County, Illinois circa 1820 (AI generated)

Illinois State } Set: The People of the State of Illinois
Pope County } To the Sheriff of said County. Greeting

We command you to summons Alfred Dillard, Andrew J. Storms, Willis Stucker, Daniel Field, Thomas Jones, Robert Hancock, Francis Moore John Williams James Williamson, Henry Vandike, John Bowman, Samuel Alexander and Isham Clay saw if they be found within your Bailiwick, to be and appear at the next Circuit Court, to be held for Pope County, at the Court House in Golconda, on the first Monday in the Month of November next, to answer to the complaint of James Steeter, in a plea of Trespass, Assault and Battery and false imprisonment. Damage ~~for~~ Ten thousand Dollars. And have you then there this writ.

Witness Joshua Scott Clerk of our said Court at the Court house aforesaid. Given under my hand and private seal (there being no public one) this seventh day of September eighteen hundred and nineteen. And of the State of Illinois the first year.

Joshua Scott, Clk. P. C. C.

State of Illinois
Pope County Circuit

To Wil James Steet Complaint of Alfred Dillard Andrew J Storms Willis Stucker, James J. D.D. Daniel Field, Thomas Jones, Robert Hancock Francis Moore, John Williams James Williamson Henry Vandike John Bowman Samuel Alexander and Isham Clay seen in custody

do of a plea of Trespass Assault and Battery and false imprisonment. I say that the said defense also on the day of at the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and nineteen at the County and Circuit aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court forces and comes to last with the places known to an assault that makes in and upon the said plaintiff and him the said plaintiff did then and there beat wound surprise and ill

According to court documents, In 1819 a group of Pope County citizens took justice into their own hands and subjected James Steele to vigilante punishment—an act referred to at the time as being “regulated.” Among those involved was **John Williams**, father of **Josiah Williams**. The Pope County court archives contain a 127-page case file in which **Steele**, acting as the plaintiff, brought legal action against several community members, including **John Williams**, accusing them of whipping and imprisoning him under suspicion of counterfeiting and requested \$10,000 in damages. The 200-year-old manuscript is exceptionally difficult to decipher due to its age and condition, but I have transcribed key portions in order to reconstruct the events surrounding the case.

All original spelling and grammatical errors have been preserved in the transcription to maintain historical accuracy, including the spelling of “they” as “the” which appears often throughout the documents.



**Deposition of Sally Shelly,
daughter of Isom Clay on November 6th 1820:**

Question: Do you know at what time the above named Steele was taken by a certain body of persons called or calling themselves regulators, and whipped, and do you know if he was whipped or not? Declare.

Answer: Some time in February last, I was at my father's when the body of persons called regulators came there and this deponent understood they were in search of said Steele and during the two days which I stayed at my father's Mrs. Steele & Polley Blair came to my fathers and requested them to go to Golconda to be security for said Steele. And as for his being whipped I know not



Deposition of John Whitesides

Question: Did you know that the was making money at that place

Answer: One of the men told him that the had found silver ore and was trying it



Deposition of Jahn J Williamson

Question: What was the confessions of Steele on the bill before Moon and Willice

Answer: He stated that the had been trying to make money and that he had two or three dollars of them at home and further than Thomas Wallace showed him the molds to make money

Deposition of Robert Scott

Question by James Steele: Who did you see tye me

Answer: I seen **Williams, Jones** and **Stucker** and **Vandike** and **Bowman**. The was present when you was tyed.

Question: Do you know how many strips (**Steele**) got

Answer: Yes, how many was the? As well as I recaleck you got one hundred and fifty one

Question: Did any of the company say the was satisfied that the had whiped Steele and that he had not got enough

Answer: **Bowman** say he ought to have got more

Question: Do you know who abused or whiped Steele

Answer: yes

Question: What was there names

Answer: (Unreadable) by the name of **Williams** and **Henery Vandike** and **Jahn Bowman**

Question: Was that all that whiped **Steele**

Answer: Yes

Question: Did you or did you not here **Moore** read over the warrant to **Steele** and the deposition of **Cowsart** which deposition stated that on a certain day they had been concerned in making counterfeit money

Answer: I did here him read a deposition and warrant but had neither of them in my hands.



Deposition of Maley Mattison, March 1st 1821

Deponent says that **Mr. Clay** and his wife came to her house some time in the last of January or first of February in the year 1819 I was not at home when the came I came home and **Mr Clay** and his wife (unreadable) home and I was with them we seen **James Steele** and we stapt when **Steele** came up and **Mrs Clay** told **Steele** that if they got him the would whip him. **Steele answered** and said they had better not **Isom Clay** said the would take him out in the dead hour of the night and would whip him and he would never know who did it.

The deposition of **Thomas Brown** after being sworn says that at the house of **Thomas Jones** in the state of Illinois and Pope County him this deponent and **Thomas Cowsart** was (unreadable) about the whipping of **Cowsart** the conversation took place at the place aforesaid near the first day of Aprile in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty **Jones** said that as for **James Steele** he was a damned raskel and he would gave him much more as he had gave him if he had it in his power sworn and subscribed before me this 31st day of March 1821 added further (**Jones**) said he was not sorry for what he had done to **Steele**.



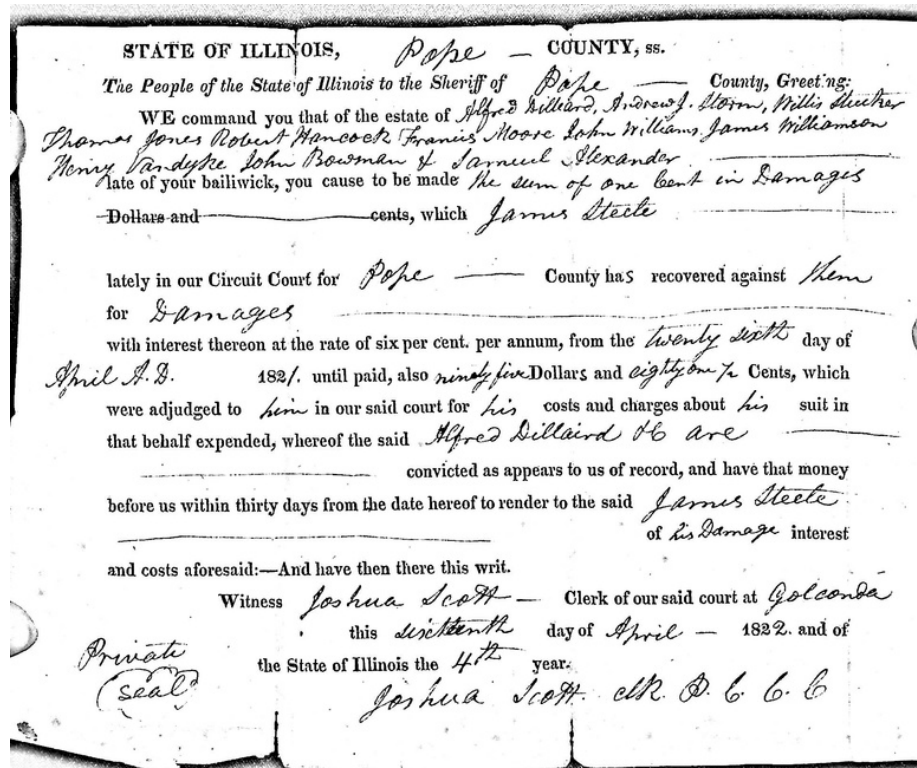
The Deposition of **Betsy Cowsart** after being duly sworn says that on the last day of January or the first of February near the house of **John Mattison** in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and nineteen in the state of Illinois and Pope County her this deponent and **Isom Clay** in conversation said clay told her that the would take **James Steele** out in the dead hour of the night and whip him and Steel could not tell who did it - some days after at her this deponents house **Daniel Fields** and **Andrew J. Storm** and **James Williamson** and **Bowman** her this deponent asked **Andrew J. Storm** whair the ware going he said the ware going to take **James Steele** and her this deponent told Storm they need not go far he was gon and **Storm** said they would take him Dead or Alive



The Deposition of **Jeane Amelveny** in the above case after being duly sworn says... on Thursday in Feberwary **James Steele** came home and striped off his shurt his shurt was red and his back was some cut and had bled some but was very much bruised and his arms was swelled with the tying. Sworn and subscribed before me this 31st of March 1821.



The case was decided on April 16, 1822, and the above document was issued in favor of the plaintiff, James Steele. Although Steele had sought \$10,000 in damages, the court awarded him only one cent in compensation, along with \$95.18 in court costs to be paid by the defendants. While the verdict technically favored Steele, the nominal award reflects the judiciary's implicit acknowledgment—and perhaps tacit approval—of the community's use of vigilante justice. The judgment serves as a revealing example of how “regulators” and extralegal actions were perceived within the legal framework of the time in Southern Illinois and a glimpse into the life of our ancestor, John Williams.



ROSWELL STURDIVANT. We are glad to announce that this celebrated counterfeiter, who has for several years, inundated the country with spurious Bank Bills, has at last been apprehended. On Friday last, a party of five persons, who volunteered upon this service, set off from this town in pursuit of him with a warrant granted by one of the supreme Judges on the affidavit of an accomplice. They proceeded on that day to Golconda, where they procured a constable, and an addition to their party, consisting of a few citizens of that neighbourhood, and, on the following morning, went to Sturdivant's house, ten miles from Golconda. Two of the party entered the house by stratagem, unsuspected, and the remainder immediately pressing forward, the gang within, consisting of six or seven persons, was completely surprised. They were evidently at work when the house was first entered, but broke off, and were busied in attempting to conceal their implements when they were discovered. The upper story of the house was found to be a complete workshop, fitted up with work benches, etc. On these were several tools, apparently used for engraving; and on the floor was a quantity of trimmings, or scraps of paper, evidently cut from the edges of Bank Notes. Here was also a large flat stone, upon which they were grinding or mixing ink when surprised—and a number of phials, containing mixtures of different kinds. Unfortunately, however, the party had not time to continue their search; for it was soon discovered that an alarm was given to Sturdivant's confederates in the neighbourhood, and it was expected that they would attempt to rescue him. The apprehending party, being only eight or ten strong, therefore withdrew with Roswell Sturdivant and his brother, Merrick Sturdivant, who alone were named in the warrant. They were pursued by a party of Sturdivant's friends, well armed with rifles, for about twenty miles, but they fortunately reached Mr. Potts', ten miles from this place, before the pursuing party came up. Here they were surrounded by these villains the whole night, and threatened with an attack: which, however, was fortunately not made—the resolute deportment of the party in the house being such as to intimidate their pursuers. On Sunday morning the prisoners were conveyed to this place, where they are now closely guarded. It is ascertained that the scoundrels who conspired were at first nine in number, and that their party was afterwards reinforced by twelve more. Jacob Robertson, _____ Blair, **Captain Steele**, James Belden, and Stephen Sturdivant, were of this gang. Such is the high-handed villainy of the counterfeiters of Pope county.

John Williams lived inside that world. This was the Illinois that shaped him and that he raised his family within — a region transitioning from violent frontier semi-anarchy into structured county government and state jurisdiction. His son Josiah Williams, born in 1808, would later serve both in the Black Hawk War and the Civil War. And Josiah's sons — Greenberry "Gord" Williams and Francis Marion Williams — would themselves serve in the 56th Illinois. Thus, through John, then Josiah, then his grandsons, three generations of the Williams family would witness and participate in the transformation of Illinois from a wild frontier where counterfeit forts stood behind cannon to an organized state fighting for the survival of the Union.

John Williams died in February 1860 in Hartsville, Pope County, Illinois — just months before the Civil War began. His long life marks the beginning of the Williams line in Southern Illinois, and the world he lived in — one of frontier risk, economic uncertainty, and self-enforced law — forms the backdrop to the more documented military service of his descendants.

Shawneetown, May 6.

BLOODY BUSINESS.

Last Tuesday week, a party of eighteen or twenty set out from Galconda, to arrest the *Sturdivants*, who live about 16 miles above that place, near the Ohio river, and are supposed to carry on the counterfeiting business, being engravers, and having the necessary implements, &c. We have not learnt how the affray commenced, or who fired first, but we presume it began on the attempt of the Galconda party to enter the house to make the arrest. A Mr. Small, who was at the house of Mr. Sturdivant, was shot through the body, and died in a few hours after. He is supposed to have been an agent of the counterfeiters, employed in putting off their paper. Roswell Sturdivant, the principal engraver, was shot through the nape of his neck, and is supposed to be dangerously wounded. Mr. Rondeau, who was of the Galconda party, in endeavoring to prevent disturbance, and to submit without resistance, was shot through the shoulders—the wound very dangerous. One other, we believe, was also wounded; but we do not know to which party he belonged. The party finally succeeded in taking them prisoners, and they are now confined in jail, together with such of the assailants as were concerned in the killing and wounding. The sheriff has communicated the facts to the Judge of the Circuit, with a view to the holding a special court for the trial of the prisoners—but none has yet been ordered, and we understand it is a matter of doubt whether the statute gives authority to hold one.

Since the above was in type we have procured a more correct account. It was a day or two after Small was killed, that the other attack was made. The first party not conceiving themselves strong enough, returned to Galconda, and a day or two afterwards about 40 persons assembled, and proceeded up to the neighborhood of the counterfeiters on board the Steam-boat, Cincinnati, surrounded the house, and after a considerable struggle, in which Sturdivant and another of his party, and Mr. Rondeau, of the assailing party, were wounded, as stated above: they succeeded in arresting Roswell Sturdivant and his father, and two others, and conveyed them to jail, who are the only persons that are confined—our information not being correct, which stated that some of the assailants were also in jail.

Lope County Probate Court March 7th A.D. 1860

At a Special Term of the County Court of said County sitting as a court of Probate at the Court House in Golconda on Wednesday the 7th day of March A.D. 1860.

Present Hon John Strode Judge

John Ramm Clerk

P. D. Field Sheriff

On this day the following Last will and Testament of John Williams deceased was produced to this court for Probate, and the proofs taken and proceedings had therein, as follows to wit:

"I John Williams of Lope County and State of Illinois, being weak in body, but of sound Mind and Memory, do declare and establish this to be my last will and Testament, revoking all others, and do hereby nominate and appoint James Floyd to be my Executor of this my last will and Testament.

1st It is my will and wish that all my just debts be paid

2^d After my debts and funeral Expenses is paid it is my wish that my beloved wife Rebecca Williams have all my personal property to wit; horses, hogs, Cattle, sheep, notes, Money and all farming tools household and Kitchen furniture, Wagon and team, Corn and peck or Peck Wheat &c

3^d At my death it is my wish that my son Josiah Williams have Two hundred dollars, and the heirs of my son James Williams have two hundred dollars, out of the Value of my land and the remaining Value of my land to be equally divided among my three heirs to wit; Josiah Williams, the heirs of my son John Williams, and James Williams, it is my wish that the land be sold or divided according to the foregoing wish among my heirs.

Signed & sealed this Eleventh day of July A.D. 1860

Henry A. Guillemin
Henry L. Gussage
Thomas D. Gussage

John Williams (Test)

State of Illinois
Lope County Dist

At a Court of Probate held at the Court House in Golconda on Wednesday the 7th day of March A.D. 1860 it being a Special call Personally appeared in open

Last Will and Testament of John Williams

Pope County Probate Court March 8th A.D. 1860

At a special term of the county court of said county sitting as a _____ probate
at the court house in Golconda on Wednesday the 8th day of March A.D. 1860

Present Hon John Foote Judge
John Raum Clerk
P. D. Field Sheriff

On this day the following last will and testament of John Williams deceased was
presented to this court for probate and the proof taken and proceedings had
therein as follows to wit

"I am John Williams of Pope County and state of Illinois being weak in body
but of sound mind and memory do claim and establish this to be my last will and
testament revoking all others and do hereby nominate and appoint James Floyd
to be my executor of this my last will and testament

1st It is my will and wish that all my just debts be paid

2nd After my debts and funeral expenses is paid it is my wish that my beloved
wife Rebecca have all my personal property to wit horses, hogs, cattle, sheep,
notes, monies and all farming tools, household and kitchen furniture, wagon and
team, corn and pork or bacon, wheat etc.

3rd Af my death it is my wish that my son Josiah Williams have two hundred
dollars out of the value of my land and the remaining value of any lad to be
equally divided among my three heirs to wit. Josiah Williams, the heirs of my son
John Williams and James Williams. It is my wish that the land be sold or divided
according to the foregoing wish among my hears

Signed and sealed the eleventh day of Feby AD 1860

John Williams (Seal)

Henry A. Gwilliams
Henry L. Gossage
Thomas D. Gossage

<i>W</i>	2 Reg't, 1 Brig.	Ill.
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John Williams
Capt., { Capt. Diarman's Co.,
 (2 Reg't, 1 Brig.) Ill. Mtd. Vols.
 (Black Hawk War.)

Appears on
 Company Muster-out Roll*
 dated *St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 12*, 1832.
 Muster-out to date _____, 1832.

Enrollment:
 Date of *June 16*, 1832.
 Period of *90 days*

Pay *draw from enrollment*
 Present or absent *Absent*
 County *Cape*
 Number of traveling rations drawn _____
 Amount due sutler _____
 Remarks: *Left at Fort Funk sick*

From Second Auditor's

*The only roll on file for this organization.

Book mark: _____

(361) *J. J. Funk* Copyist.

<i>W</i>	2 Reg't, 1 Brig.	Ill.
----------	---------------------	------

James Williams
Capt., { Capt. Diarman's Co.,
 (2 Reg't, 1 Brig.) Ill. Mtd. Vols.
 (Black Hawk War.)

Appears on
 Company Muster-out Roll*
 dated *St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 12*, 1832.
 Muster-out to date _____, 1832.

Enrollment:
 Date of *June 16*, 1832.
 Period of *90 days*

Pay *draw from enrollment*
 Present or absent *Absent*
 County *Cape*
 Number of traveling rations drawn _____
 Amount due sutler *\$14.00*
 Remarks: *Left at Fort Funk sick*

From Second Auditor's

*The only roll on file for this organization.

Book mark: _____

(361) *J. J. Funk* Copyist.

The service records of John Williams Jr. and James Williams, sons of John Williams Sr., document their participation in the militia during the Black Hawk War of 1832. According to the records, both men became ill while in service and were left behind at Fort Funk, a frontier outpost in Illinois used during the campaign. Their brother, Josiah Williams—our direct ancestor—remained with them to care for and attend to them during their sickness.

These records offer a small but meaningful glimpse into the experiences of the Williams family during this brief but significant frontier conflict. Like many militia families of early Illinois, multiple brothers answered the call to service, and the documentation reflects not only their military participation but also the practical realities of frontier warfare, where illness and hardship were often as formidable as the enemy itself. Josiah's presence alongside his brothers highlights the close family bonds that characterized many early pioneer households and underscores the Williams family's direct connection to the events of the Black Hawk War in Illinois.



Josiah Williams was born March 20, 1808, in the early frontier years before Illinois gained statehood. On June 22, 1829, he married **Hannah Mahala Hathaway** in Pope County, Illinois, creating the earliest known record of his adult life (above) and placing him firmly within the emerging network of young farming families establishing permanent homes along the creeks and ridges of the region.

Three years after Josiah's marriage, in the spring and early summer of 1832, word spread that Black Hawk and a band of Sauk, Meskwaki, and Kickapoo had crossed back into Illinois. The alarm moved quickly, and the lower counties immediately began raising mounted companies. One of these companies was commanded by Jonathan Diarman (also recorded as Durman), himself a resident of Pope County, and was drawn primarily from nearby frontier settlements in Southern Illinois. For men like Josiah—newly married, rooted to local land, and responsible for family and property—the call to muster reflected both communal obligation and the persistent uncertainty of frontier life, where military service was closely tied to the defense of home, neighbors, and hard-won claims.

<i>Williams, Josiah</i>	
Capt. <i>Williams</i> Company	
2 Reg't, 1 Brig., Ill. Mtd. Vols.	
(Black Hawk War)	
<i>Print</i>	<i>Write</i>
CARD NUMBERS.	
<i>131325765</i>	22
2	23
3	24
4	25
5	26
6	27
7	28
8	29
9	30
10	31
11	32
12	33
13	34
14	35
15	36
16	37
17	38
18	39
19	40
20	41
21	42
Number of personal papers herein <i>0</i>	
Book Mark:	
See also	

State of Illinois
Pope County

The People of the State of Illinois
to any person authorized by the laws of said
State to solemnize the rites of Matrimony: Greet-
ing: You are hereby authorized ~~by the laws~~
licensed and permitted to go together as
husband and wife in the bands of holy
wedlock agreeably to the ceremonies on such
occasions observed Mr Josiah Williams and
Miss Hannah Mahala M. Hathaway both of
lawful age - And this shall be your warrant
for so doing -



In testimony whereof I Charles Dunn
Clk of the County Commissioners Court
in and for said County and in
State have hereto set my hand and
affixed my private Seal (there being
no public one provided) in my of-
fice in Golconda this 22nd day of
June A.D. 1829.

Chas Dunn Clk.

Dunn

State of Illinois
Pope County

The People of the State of Illinois to any person authorized by the laws of said state to solemnize the rites of matrimony greeting: you are hereby authorized, licensed and permitted to going together as husband and wife in the bands of holy wedlock agreeably to the ceremonies on such occasion observed Mr. Josiah Williams and Ms Hannah Mahala M. Hathaway both of lawful age and this shall be your warrant for doing so.

The testimony whereof I Charles Dunn Clk of the county commissioners court in and for said county and said state have hereto set my hand and affixed my private seal (there being no public one provided) in my office in Golconda this 22nd day of June A.D. 1829

Chas Dunn Clk

On June 16, 1832, three Williams brothers—Josiah, John, and James—formally enrolled in Diarman's mounted company. These early Illinois militia units were not part of the regular army. Men supplied their own horses, saddles, and firearms, and furnished much of their own ammunition and food. Their chief value to the state was mobility: scouting trails, carrying dispatches north, patrolling river crossings, and moving quickly to reinforce the main body of troops if a confrontation erupted. Service was often brief and episodic, but it placed local men directly into the machinery of state defense at a moment of regional alarm.

For the men themselves, enlistment carried personal and communal meaning beyond military necessity. Participation affirmed loyalty to the new state, reinforced bonds among neighboring families, and offered a measure of protection to their own households left behind. For settlers in Pope County, militia service was both a civic obligation and a practical safeguard—an assertion that their communities were not isolated outposts, but organized and willing to defend their claims in an uncertain frontier landscape.

But Diarman's company, and dozens like it from Southern Illinois, had another key purpose: their very presence was political power. Governor John Reynolds wanted federal officials to see visible force and decisive statewide mobilization. The mustering of mounted companies from the southern counties was meant to demonstrate that Illinois was united in military posture, capable and ready to defend itself.

<i>W</i>	2 Reg't, 1 Brig.	III.
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Josiah Williams
Pl., { Capt. Diarman's Co.,
 (2 Reg't, 1 Brig.) Ill. Mtd. Vols.
 (Black Hawk War.)

Appears on
Company Muster-out Roll*

dated *Nov 10*, *Aug 12*, 1832.
 Muster-out to date _____, 1832,

Enrollment:
 Date of _____ *June 16*, 1832.
 Period of *90 days*

Pay *Now from enrollment*
 Present or absent *Absent*
 County *Pope*

Number of traveling rations drawn _____
 Amount due sutler *\$15.00*

Remarks: *Left at 2 miles to attend
 the sick*

From Second Auditor's Roll.

*The only roll on file for this organization.

Book mark: _____

(361) *F. J. [Signature]* Copyist.

CAPT. JONATHAN DURMAN'S COMPANY

Of Mounted Volunteers of Illinois, called into the service of the United States by the Governor of the State of Illinois, by his order of May 15, 1832, from the date of its enrollment to Aug. 12, 1832, the time of its mustering out of service.

Name and Rank.	Residence.	Enrolled	Remarks.
<i>Captain.</i> Jonathan Durman..	Pope Co.....	1832 June 16	Two horses and one servant in service.....
<i>First Lieutenant.</i> Simon S. Bargar....	" .....	" .....	.....
<i>Second Lieutenant.</i> Jacob Benyard.....	" .....	" .....	.....
<i>Sergeants.</i> John B. Witt.....	" .....	" .....	.....
Thomas M. Ellis.....	" .....	" .....	.....
Green B. Veatch.....	" .....	" .....	.....
Alfred M. Hazel.....	" .....	" .....	.....
<i>Corporals.</i> John Lewis.....	" .....	" .....	.....
Thomas Matthews..	" .....	" .....	.....
<i>Privates.</i> Anderson, Andrew..	"	"	Left sick at Fort Wilbourn.....
Allen, Marshall.....	"	"	Horse lost in service.....
Banty, Jesse.....	" .....	" .....	.....
Baily, James.....	" .....	" .....	.....
Bowman, David.....	"	"	Absent on furlough.....
Crawford, James.....	" .....	" .....	.....
Carlyle, William.....	"	"	Absent on furlough.....
Cowsent, Samuel.....	"	"	Ord. to Ft. Hamilton on duty; horse lost, shot
Davis, Colman.....	" .....	" .....	.....
Demick, Judetham C	" .....	" .....	.....
Dorset, William.....	" .....	" .....	.....
Holland, James.....	" .....	" .....	.....
Hobbs, Ezekial.....	"	"	Deserted July 20, 1832.....
Harlice, William.....	"	"	Left on duty at Ft. Wilbourn to attend sick..
Hobbs, Christopher..	"	"	Absent on furlough, granted on Surg's certif.
Jones, Alfred.....	" .....	" .....	.....
King, Anderson.....	" .....	" .....	.....
King, John.....	" .....	" .....	.....
Lewis, Joseph L.....	"	"	Absent on furlough.....
Lauderdale, John.....	" .....	" .....	.....
Martin, Isaac L.....	" .....	" .....	.....
Noaks, Abraham.....	"	"	Left sick at Fort Hamilton.....
Perrin, James.....	" .....	" .....	.....
Raney, Robert R.....	"	"	Absent on furlough; horse lost in service.....
Slankard, Jacob.....	" .....	" .....	.....
Williams, John.....	"	"	Left at Fort Funk sick.....
Williams, James.....	" .....	" .....	.....
Williams, Josiah.....	"	"	" to attend the sick.....
Williams, Isom.....	" .....	" .....	.....
Watkins, Isaac F.....	"	"	Left at Funk's Fort to attend the sick.....
Wallace, Squire.....	"	"	sick.....
West, Joseph.....	Franklin Co..	"	Det. by cons'nt from Capt. West's Co.; att'ch'd [to Capt. Durman's.

CAPT. HOLMAN'S COMPANY

Of Illinois Mounted Volunteers, called into the service of the United States by the Governor of the State, by his order of May 15, 1832, from the date of its enrollment to the 2d day of August, 1832, when mustered out of service.

Name and Rank.	Residence.	Enrolled	Remarks.
<i>Captain.</i> Armstead Holman ..		1832 June 15	.....
<i>First Lieutenant.</i> James Duncan		"	



A Militia group in Pope County, Illinois circa 1830 (AI generated)

Conditions on that campaign were harsh. As Diarman's column moved north toward the Illinois River country, illness swept through the ranks, a common affliction in volunteer forces unaccustomed to prolonged marches, poor sanitation, and inconsistent rations. At Fort Funk, brothers John and James Williams became too ill to continue forward. Josiah Williams was released from the advancing column specifically to remain behind and care for them, underscoring how disease, rather than combat, often determined a soldier's fate.

In truth, the Black Hawk War was brief. Many of the men, including the Williams brothers, were mustered out before direct battle lines were drawn, their service consisting largely of marching, encampment, and frontier patrol rather than engagement. Yet their participation remains significant. The 1832 campaign marked the last armed Native resistance in Illinois and the closing chapter of the state's frontier era. Within a decade, settlement pushed rapidly across the Rock River into lands contested only years earlier. For Pope County families like the Williams, the Black Hawk War became one of the earliest military episodes recorded in their history—preserved in pension files, muster rolls, and county biographies as the service of Illinois's first generation of state-born settlers.

The United States of America
 To all to whom these presents shall come Greeting
 Whereas, **John Williams, Senior**, of Pope County Illinois
 has deposited in the General Land Office of the United States, a
 certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Shawmout, Illinois
 according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the
 24th of April, 1820, Entitled "An act making further
 provisions for the sale of the Public Lands," for the North
 East Quarter of the South West Quarter of Section Thirteen
 in Township Eleven South of Range Six East, in the
 District of Lands subject to sale at Shawmout, Illinois
 containing Forty Acres according to the Official plat of the
 survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land
 Office by the Surveyor General, which said tract has been
 purchased by the said John Williams Senior. Now
 Know Ye that the United States of America, in consideration
 of the Premises, and in conformity with the several Acts
 of Congress, in such case made and provided, Have
 given and granted and by these presents do give and
 grant unto the said John Williams Senior and to his
 heirs, the said tract above described: To Have and
 to Hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges,
 immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature
 thereto belonging, unto the said John Williams Senior
 and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony whereof, I, **Martin Van Buren**
 President of the United States of America, have
 caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the
 General Land Office to be hereunto affixed. Given under
 my hand, at the City of Washington, the First day of
 October in the year of our Lord and of the
 Independence of the United States the sixty
 fourth - By the President **Martin Van Buren**

By **Wm Van Buren Jr Secy**
 of the General Land Office
 Recorded Vol. 14 Page 101.
 State of Illinois }
 Pope County }
 I John Bacon Recorder in and
 said County do hereby certify that
 the foregoing Patent to John Williams Senior on the
 date hereof duly recorded
 Given, my hand & official seal at Golconda
 this 24th Nov 1846
John Bacon Recorder

This is a
 D. 1846
 of the Co
 John W
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 Williams

Deed Record: Pope. Deeds 1836-1850

In 1846, John Williams Sr. conveyed a parcel of land to his son in Section 13 of Township 12. Serving as a witness to this transaction was Thomas Greenberry "Green" Gibbs, then a young man establishing himself within the Williams family's circle. Just months later, Green Gibbs and his wife, Permelia Williams—daughter of Josiah Williams—welcomed their first child, William Alexander Gibbs, born approximately four months after the land sale.

This transaction is notable not only as an early transfer of land within the Williams family, but also as a clear documentary intersection of the Williams and Gibbs families at a formative moment, shortly before the next generation, and our direct ancestor, was born.

This Indenture made and entered into this 11th day of November 1846 Between Josiah Williams and Mahala Williams his wife of the County of Pope and State of Illinois of the first part and John Williams Sr. of the County and State aforesaid of the second part Witnesseth that the Party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of One hundred dollars in hand paid by the said Party of the second part the Receipt whereof is acknowledged, have granted bargained sold remised released and forever quit and released unto the said Party of the second part all that certain

part has been and assigned and against the claims and claims of any other person or persons whomsoever. In Testimony whereof the Party of the first part have hereunto set our hand and seal this day and year above mentioned

Signed sealed & delivered in the presence of Witnesses
Green Gibbs Thomas & Green
Betsy Gibbs Son of Josiah Williams

Josiah Williams seal
Mahala Williams seal

State of Illinois } I do hereby certify that I acquainted Mahala Williams of the within deed and being by me examined separately and apart from her husband she acknowledged that she executed the same and relinquished her dower in the lands and tenements therein mentioned voluntarily and freely and without the compulsion of her husband. Given under my hand and seal this 11th day of November A.D. 1846
State of Illinois }
Pope County } John Nason Recorder and for said County do hereby certify that the foregoing deed from Josiah Williams & wife to Josiah Williams Jr. was on the date hereof duly recorded

Given under my hand and seal of Office at Golconda this 26th day of May 1846
J. Nason Recorder

Nearly thirty years after the Black Hawk War, when the Civil War began, Josiah was no longer a young mounted scout. He was a seasoned frontier farmer, a husband, and a father. Yet he volunteered again. He enlisted in Company K, 56th Illinois Volunteer Infantry—and this time he served beside two of his own sons, Greenberry “Gord” Williams and Francis Marion Williams. Companies in the Civil War West were built from communities; it was not rare to see fathers, sons, cousins, and neighbors in the same company roster, bound by local ties as much as military discipline. The 56th Illinois served in the Western Theater under Grant and Sherman—through

Mississippi, Tennessee, and the campaigns that pushed toward Atlanta. These operations were harsh, prolonged, and punishing, exposing soldiers to constant fatigue and disease. The Western Theater was notorious for malarial swamps, endless marching, bad water, rain-soaked bivouacs, and unrelenting physical exposure, conditions which would ultimately lead to the early death of Josiah.

DECLARATION OF ADULT CHILD OR CHILDREN FOR PENSION.

State of Illinois }
County of Peoria } ss.

On this First day of January, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and eighty-~~eight~~^{eight}, personally appeared before me, John Theobald (Judge, Clerk or Deputy Clerk.) the same being a court of record within and for the County and State aforesaid.

Anna (Name in full of the claimant) residents of Ill County of Peoria and State of Ill, who, being duly sworn according to law, make the following declaration in order to obtain the pension provided for the children of deceased soldiers by Acts of Congress:

That she is the legitimate child of Josiah Williams who volunteered (Volunteered, became a substitute, or was drafted.) at Shannonville, Ill. on the day of Nov, A. D. 1861, to serve in the army (If in the army, give name of vessel, if in the navy.) in the war of 1861-'65.

who died after discharge of disease contracted in service (Discharge or death.) Show his death was in consequence of military service in line of duty. (If of wounds, tell where received; if of disease, tell where contracted.) at Peoria, on or about the day of Nov, A. D. 1863.

and who bore, at the time of his death, the rank of Private in Co. H, 56th that he left a widow surviving she died July 3, 1874 (If widow survive, show why she has not applied to a pension; if dead, give date of death.) (Was or were.) that she is the only surviving legitimate child of said (He or she is, or they are.)

Josiah Williams who was under sixteen years of age at the time of his death, of whom Wiley C. Williams and Sept 4, 1863 (Name of soldier.) (Name of wife before marriage, and date of marriage.) that she is the issue of said soldier as follows, the (He or she is, or they are.)

date of Dec birth being as hereinafter stated:

Margaret C. Williams of soldier by Mahala Williams May 11, 1860.
(Name of mother.)
Permyla Williams of soldier by Mahala Williams July 6, 1861.
Annery G. Williams of soldier by Mahala Williams Oct 10, 1861.
John C. Williams of soldier by Mahala Williams Oct 15, 1863.
Samuel Williams of soldier by Mahala Williams Sept 2, 1865.
John C. Williams of soldier by Mahala Williams born Feb 14, 1867.
John C. Williams of soldier by Mahala Williams born Oct 15, 1869.

That the above-named deceased soldier was married under the name of Josiah Williams (Name of soldier.) to Mahala Williams Nov 26, 1859 (Name of wife before marriage, and date of marriage.) there being no legal barrier to such marriage; that she has not aided or abetted the rebellion; and that no (He or she has, or they have.) (a or no.) prior application has been filed (If previous application has been made by soldier or person, give the number of claim, if possible.) and the date of filing.)

That Declarant hereby appoints, with full power of substitution and revocation, **GEORGE E. LEMON,** of Washington, D. C., true and lawful Attorney, to prosecute his claim. That he abso- (He, her or their.) (He, her or their.) Office address Rocktonville, Ohio Co. Ill (Give City or Village, County and State; if you reside in city where streets are named and houses numbered, give name of street and number of house.) George E. Lemon (Signature of Claimant.)

Attest: I, James B. Floyd (Name of one witness to X mark.)
2 William C. Williams (Name of other witness to X mark.)

Green B. Williams of soldier by Mahala Williams born 20, 1863
Francis Marion Williams of soldier by Mahala Williams Oct 10, 1861
James C. Williams of soldier by Mahala Williams May 15, 1865
Margaret Williams of soldier by Mahala Williams Nov 26, 1866
John C. Williams of soldier by Mahala Williams March 2, 1869
Cynthia G. Lemon of soldier by Mahala Williams May 11, 1860

ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES.



CERTIFICATE OF DISABILITY FOR DISCHARGE.

(To be used, in duplicate, in all cases of discharge on account of disability.)

Josiah Williams a private of Captain *Williamson*
R. Floyd Company, [K], of the *Fifty Sixth* Regiment of United States
Infantry, was enlisted by *Williamson R. Floyd*, of
the *56th* Regiment of *Missouri* at *Gilberts Mills*
on the *seventh* day of *November*, 1861, to serve *three* years; he was born
in *Montgomery County* in the State of *Kentucky*, is *Fifty Three*
years of age, *5* feet *10 1/2* inches high, *Dark* complexion, *Black* eyes,
Black hair, and by occupation when enlisted a *Farmer*. During the last two
months said soldier has been unfit for duty *40* days. (Here consult directions on Form 13, p. 325, par. 1340, p. 344, Rev.
Army Reg.)

He is suffering from Rheumatism contracted
by exposure since enlistment which renders him unfit for duty
STATION: *Camp Hainington Miss* *Lieut. Sam Roper*
DATE: *May* 1862
Commanding Company.

I CERTIFY, that I have carefully examined the said *Josiah Williams* of
Captain *Floyd's* Company, and find him incapable of performing the duties of a soldier
because of (Here consult par. 1290, p. 281; also, par. 1638, p. 435, and directions on Form 13, p. 325, Revised Army Regulations)

be troubled with Chronic Rheumatism said
to have contracted whilst in service, he is much
over age & ought never to have been rec'd as a
soldier

H B Thompson Surgeon.

DISCHARGED this

day of

June 1862, at *Camp near Hainington Miss*
616 E. Key Col

Commanding the Post.

NOTE 1.—When a probable case for pension, special care must be taken to state the degree of disability.

NOTE 2.—The place where the soldier desires to be addressed may be here added.

Town—

County—

State—

[DUPLICATES.]

4

Eddyville Ills Nov 10 1869

S B Raum Com of Pensions

Sir in looking over my Memorandum
book this AM I find that on June the
third marching from Corinth after
the evacuation on May 30th 1862 we marched
all PM in a hard rain & till 2 in the am
here Josiah Williams give out and lay
in that terrible Swamp till next AM
So his son S B told me and as
far as my memory serves me he
suffered after that with Chronic
diarrhoea until July 21st 1862. A
lot of our boys are sent to the
general hospital I think Josiah Williams
was one of the number as shown
by my book but I think you
are mistaken about giving a
Statement about this before. I sent
an old David from Dr. Hays on about
Death of Josiah Williams stating
that he had good reason to believe
that he died with Chronic Diarrhoea
but I never saw as I remember
Josiah Williams after he was sent
north from Clear Creek Miss

Yours Obedient Servant
Edw Henry L Gassage late Sergt.

6 Co K 56 Ills S B Raum Com of
Pensions Washington D C

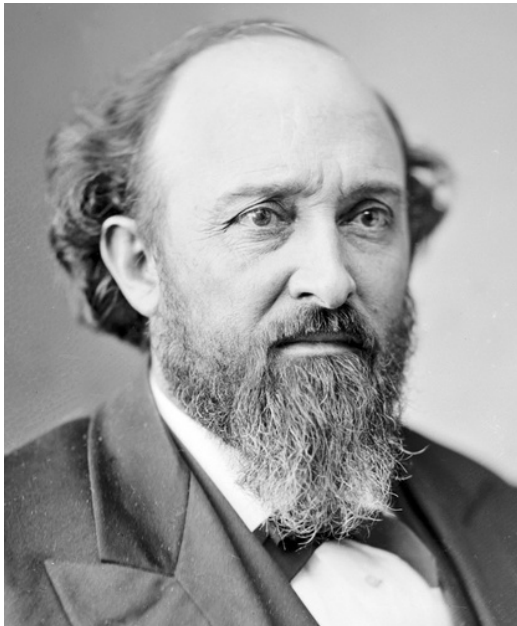
Eddyville Ills Nov 10 1889
G. B. Raum Com of Pensions

Sir, in looking over my memorandum book this AM I find that on June the third marching from Corinth after the evacuation on May 30th 1862 we marched all PM in a hard rain & til 2 in the AM here Josiah Williams give out and lay in that terrible swamp til AM so his son G. B. told me and as far as my memory serves me he suffered after that with chronic diarrhea until July 21st 1862. A no of our boys are sent to the general hospital. I think Josiah Williams was one of the number as shown by my book but I think you are mistaken about my giving a statement about this before I sent an affidavit from Dr. Wasson about death of Josiah Williams stating that he had good reason to believe that he died with chronic diarrhea but I never saw as I remember Josiah Williams after he was sent north from Clear Creek, Miss.

Your obedient servant,

Eld Henry L. Gossage late sergt
Co K 56 Ills

G.B. Raum
Commissioner of Pensions, Washington D.C.



Green Berry Raum (1829–1909) was a Union officer, Illinois politician, and later Commissioner of Pensions in Washington, D.C., whose name appears on thousands of Civil War pension documents. He was born in Golconda, Pope County, Illinois, making him one of the county's most notable nineteenth-century figures to rise to national prominence.

At the outbreak of the American Civil War, Raum helped organize and served as an officer in the 56th Illinois Infantry Regiment, a unit composed largely of men from southern Illinois. The regiment fought in the Western Theater, including at the Battle of Shiloh and the campaigns around Corinth, Mississippi. Among the soldiers who served in this same regiment was our ancestor Josiah Williams and his sons Greenberry "Gord" Williams and Francis Marion Williams, linking Raum directly to local men whose pension paperwork would later pass through his office.

After the war, Raum served in the United States House of Representatives and in 1889 was appointed Commissioner of the United States Pension Bureau by President Benjamin Harrison. In this role he oversaw the federal system that administered pensions to Union veterans and their families, and his signature appears on countless pension certificates issued across the country.

For residents of Pope County, Raum represented a remarkable local success story: a man born on the southern Illinois frontier who rose to national office while remaining closely connected to the soldiers and communities of the region. His career illustrates how individuals from small frontier counties could play meaningful roles in both the Civil War and the federal programs that later supported its veterans.

In this era, the medical term “Rheumatism” was used broadly to describe severe, chronic inflammation of joints and muscles—what today would be divided into multiple diagnostic conditions (rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, post-infectious joint disease, and more). Civil War records show that rheumatism was especially common among older soldiers who had spent months on wet ground, marching under load, and living constantly in the open weather. Josiah was one of them.

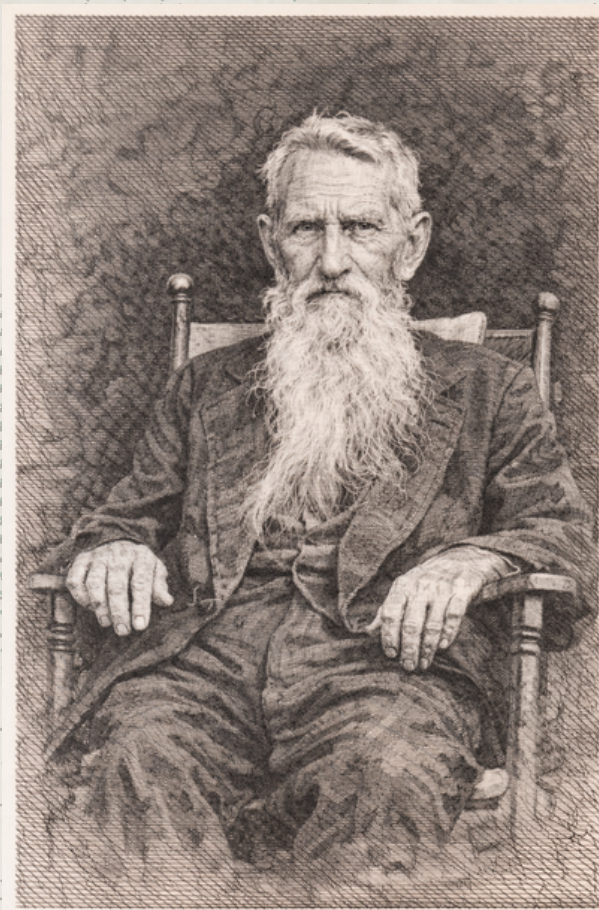
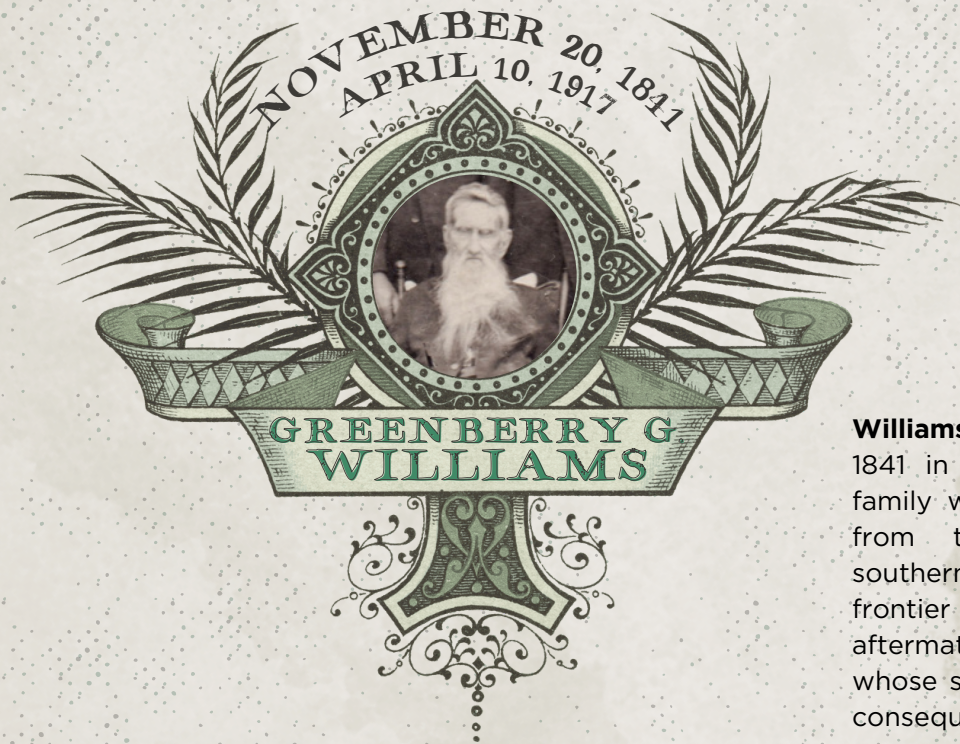
On June 3, 1862, he was discharged due to disability caused by chronic rheumatism at Rienzi, Mississippi. Family recollection suggests he may have been transported north afterward to recover in a Union hospital, possibly in Evansville, Indiana. His condition remained severe. Family affidavits and later pension-related statements indicate that Josiah may have ultimately died not simply from rheumatism, but from the prolonged consequences of chronic diarrhea—one of the most common and most lethal diseases of the Civil War era.

Josiah Williams died on December 1, 1863.

His life forms a perfect arc of the first two generations of Illinois state history. Born when Illinois was still wilderness, he first rode on horseback in 1832 to secure its northern frontier. Thirty years later he marched again—this time inside the massive industrial army of the Union, alongside his own sons. Josiah’s service in both the Black Hawk War and the Civil War places him among the few Illinois men whose personal military history traces the transformation of the state itself—from frontier outpost to a central pillar of the United States in its moment of greatest national crisis.



Son of Josiah, Francis Marion Williams, and wife Elizabeth Isaacs



Greenberry Gordon “Gord” Williams was born on 20 November 1841 in Pope County, Illinois, into a family whose history was inseparable from the earliest settlement of southern Illinois. His life bridged the frontier era, the Civil War, and the long aftermath endured by Union veterans whose service left permanent physical consequences. Few lives illustrate that arc more completely, or with such documentary clarity.

Gord was the seventh child and fourth son of **Josiah Williams** (1808–1863) and **Hannah Mahala Hathaway**, members of long-established pioneer families in Pope County, Illinois. His paternal grandfather, **John Williams**, migrated from Virginia to Illinois about 1832 and farmed in Pope County until his death in the late 1850s, while on his maternal side Gord descended from some of the earliest settlers in southern Illinois, whose presence in the region dated to at least 1818. Josiah and Hannah Williams spent nearly their entire lives in Pope County, raising twelve children and maintaining their property free of debt. Josiah died during the Civil War in December 1863, and Hannah followed in July 1874. Through the marriages of several siblings—including unions with the Gibbs family—Gord remained embedded within a close-knit kinship network that would later prove vital during his years of declining health.

Raised on a farm, Gord received little formal education in childhood, a common reality in rural Illinois. This changed profoundly during the Civil War. In November 1861, at approximately twenty years of age, he enlisted as a private in Company K, 56th Illinois Infantry, a regiment organized at Shawneetown, Illinois, and mustered into federal service on 27 February 1862.

From the moment it left Illinois, the 56th Illinois Infantry was engaged in nearly continuous service. Assigned first to Paducah, Kentucky, the regiment soon moved into field operations with the Army of the Mississippi and later the Army of the Tennessee. Gord, along with his father and brother, marched through Tennessee and Mississippi, participating in the siege of Corinth, subsequent pursuits, and rail-guard duty that exposed soldiers to relentless marching, poor sanitation, and disease.

In 1863, the regiment played a central role in the Vicksburg Campaign, including movements at Grand Gulf, the battles of Champion Hill and Big Black River, and the siege and assaults on Vicksburg, culminating in its surrender on 4 July 1863. Later that year, the regiment marched east to participate in the Chattanooga Campaign, including the assault on Missionary Ridge on 25 November 1863.

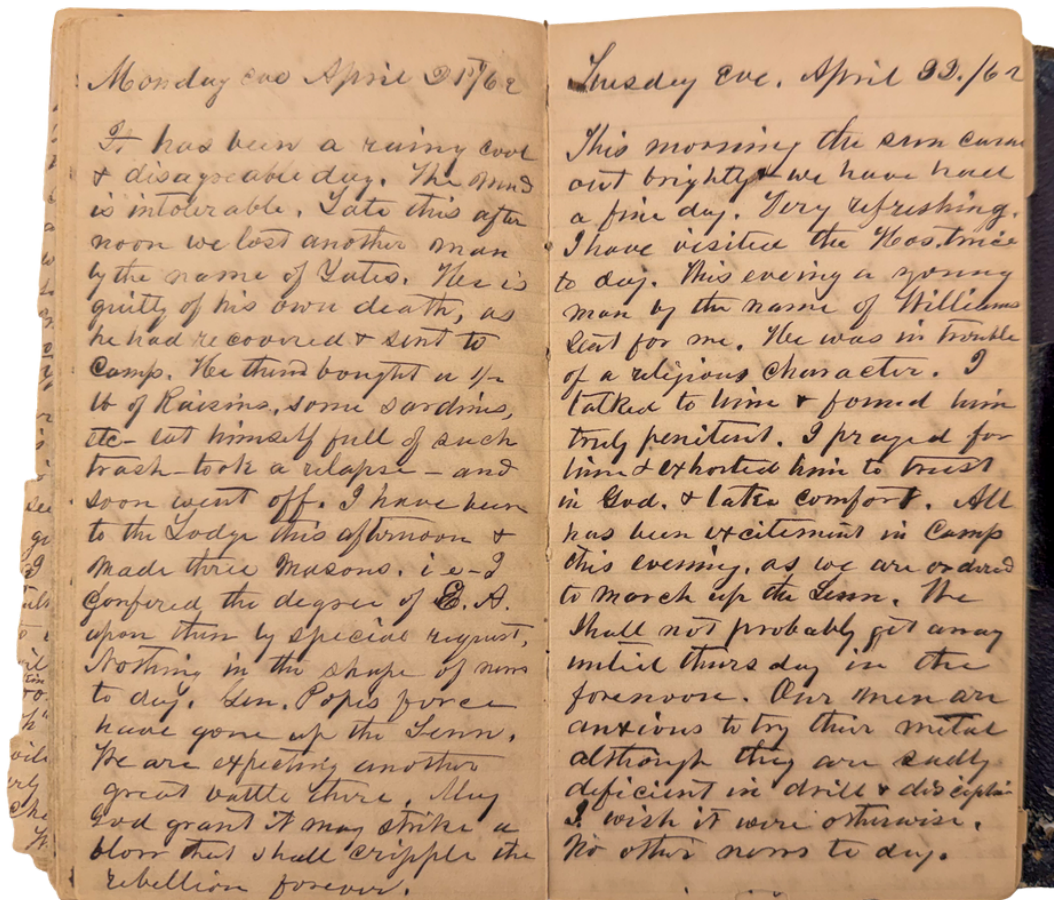
Among the holdings of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois, is the diary of David P. Bunn, who served as chaplain of the 56th Illinois Volunteer Infantry from 1861 until his resignation in May 1863. This manuscript provides a compelling firsthand account of the early Civil War experiences endured by John, Francis, and Gord Williams.

Wednesday Evening May 7/62

The day has been beautiful indeed. At noon to day Dr. Thompson returned from the camp on the field. Our men have had a terrible time of it on acct. of rain & mud. This afternoon Dr. Marsh our hospst. Steward Lieut. Chaney & myself went to see the battle ground of the 6 & 7 April. It is one of the most desolate, miserable looking places that I have ever seen. It looks like a great slaughter pen & the stench is equal to one. Dr. Marsh found the grave of Capt. N. S. Oglesby & Geo. L. Tuttle, and I went & looked at them. From the appearance on the trees they were meeting with a perfect storm of bullets when they fell. Poor fellows. they slept by the side of a red-oak tree with a board nailed on it marking the spot. The whole sight is horrible truly.

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Location: Hamburg Landing, Tennessee

Monday Eve April 21st /62

It has been a raining cool & disagreeable day. The ground is intolerable. Late this after noon we lost another man by the name of Yates. He is guilty of his own death as he had recovered & sent to camp. He then bought in 1/2lb of raisins, some sardines, etc. eat himself full of such trash - took a relapse - and soon went off. I have been to the lodge this afternoon & made three musons. i.e. - I conferred the degree of E. A. upon them by special request. Nothing in the shape of news to day. Gen Popes force have gone up the Tenn. They are expecting another great battle there. May god grant it may strike a blow that shall cripple the rebellion forever.

Tuesday eve, April 22. /62

This morning the sun came out brightly & we have had a fine day. Very refreshing. I have visited the Hos. twice to day. This evening a young man by the name of Williams sent for me. He was in trouble of a religious character. I talked to him & found him truly penitent. I prayed for him & exhorted him to trust in God & take comfort. All has been excitement in camp this evening as we are ordered to march up the Tenn. We shall not probably get away until Thursday in the forenoon. Our men are anxious to try their metal although they are sadly deficient in drill & discipline. I wish it were otherwise. No other news to day.

Although the surname Williams is mentioned, there were twenty-three men bearing that name across the companies of the 56th Illinois Infantry, making it impossible to determine whether this individual belonged to our family, but still an interesting anecdote about their experiences during the war.

Friday morning May 30. /62
 This morning is cloudy & cool. Compared to yesterday. There is seen a dense volume of smoke stretching a mile in length in the direction of Corinth, and the supposition is, the place is being burned & evacuated. Heavy reports were heard supposed to be the blowing up of the town & magazines. Just this morning I am informed, that some of our men have been in Corinth this morning. So I recon it is true, if so, the great battle of Corinth has proved to be a humbug. Afternoon, the bird has flown sure as angles, and we have lost it. It seems very strange that the enemy should get every thing before we should find it out. Gen. Halleck will acct. for it I cant tell. It will surely protract the war. I went to Corinth today to see the place. It is a poor looking village containing perhaps

When all were there some 800 or 1000 inhabitants. There is no sign of thrift or taste in the place, but every thing shows a want of industry & enterprise. The legitimate fruits of Slavery may be seen every where. In the condition of the farms & fixtures in going to Corinth I saw Dick Steal, Leut Kueneman, Young Fuller, & William Martin. & Geo. Ormsby. The troops from Mo. look much healthier than ours. They have been on the march, while we have been laying still. I have no word from my Resignation yet. Time hangs heavily. I am anxious to get away. Our troops are in pursuit of the rebels, but with little hope of success. I fear the war will be greatly protracted by our failures here. But such is the fortune of war. May God help us in our time of great need.

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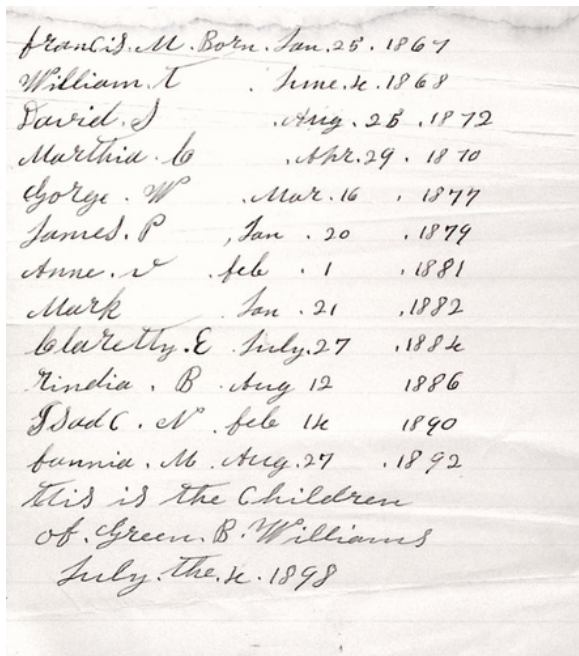
It was at Missionary Ridge that Gord sustained a gunshot wound to the left leg, an injury that marked the beginning of a lifetime of disability. Though he returned to duty, the wound never truly healed.

The regiment's service continued almost without pause through railroad guard duty, the Atlanta Campaign, Sherman's March to the Sea, and the Carolinas Campaign, including the Battle of Bentonville. Williams marched with his regiment to Washington, D.C., participated in the Grand Review of the Armies on 24 May 1865, and remained on postwar duty until being mustered out on 12 August 1865.

Of the regiment's losses, the overwhelming majority—348 enlisted men—died of disease, a fact that contextualizes the chronic illnesses later documented in Williams' pension file.

"(The 56th) was engaged in nearly all of the great battles of the Western Army, never was in an unsuccessful battle, never was driven from a position, and never turned its back upon the enemy. On its flag-staff at Springfield on a silver plate are these words: "Sub hoc signo vinces." (Under this sign you will conquer.)

From the book Gallatin, Saline, Hamilton, Franklin & Williamson Counties by THE GOODSPEED PUBLISHING CO. 1887.



Francis M. Born Jan. 25. 1867
 William T. June. 4. 1868
 David S. Aug. 25. 1872
 Martha C. Apr. 29. 1870
 George W. Mar. 16. 1877
 James P. Jan. 20. 1879
 Anne E. Feb. 1. 1881
 Mark Jan. 21. 1882
 Claretty E. July. 27. 1884
 Rindia B. Aug. 12. 1886
 Isaac C. N. Feb. 14. 1890
 Fannia M. Aug. 27. 1892
 This is the children
 of Green B. Williams
 July. The. 4. 1898

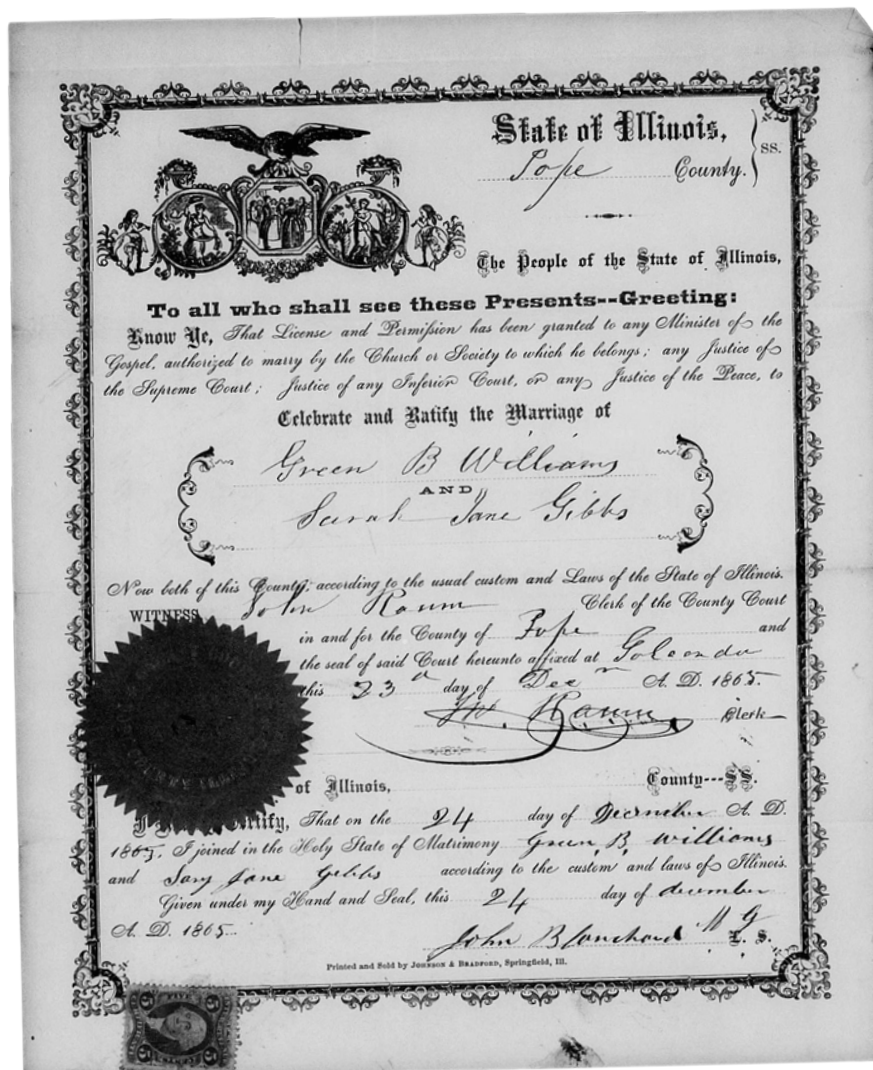
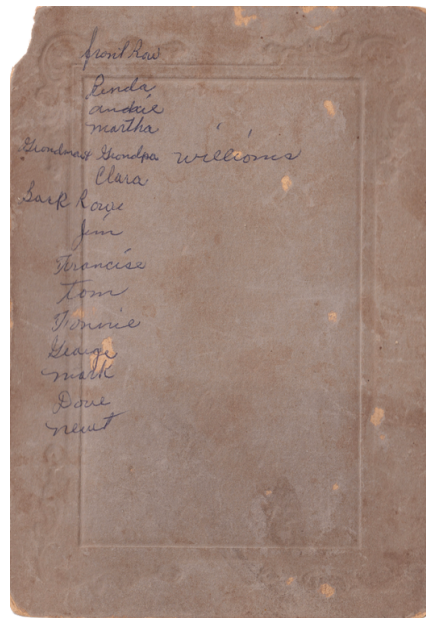
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This is the children
 of Green B. Williams
 July the 4 1898

From the Civil War pension file of Greenberry "Gord" Williams

Gord returned home about August 1865, and on 24 December 1865, married **Sarah Jane Gibbs** of Hardin County, Illinois. Their marriage joined two long-established families and anchored Gord within an extended network of kin. The couple settled on a farm in Pope County and later, in 1881, relocated to a ninety-five-acre farm on Section 27.

They raised a large family and buried two infant children, losses tragically common in the nineteenth century. Though farming remained Williams' occupation in name, his physical capacity for sustained labor was permanently compromised.





Front row: Renda, Annie, Martha, Greenberry "Gord", Sarah Jane Gibbs Williams, Clara
 Back row: James (J.P.) Francis, Tom, Fannie, George, Mark, David and Newt Williams. Circa 1898

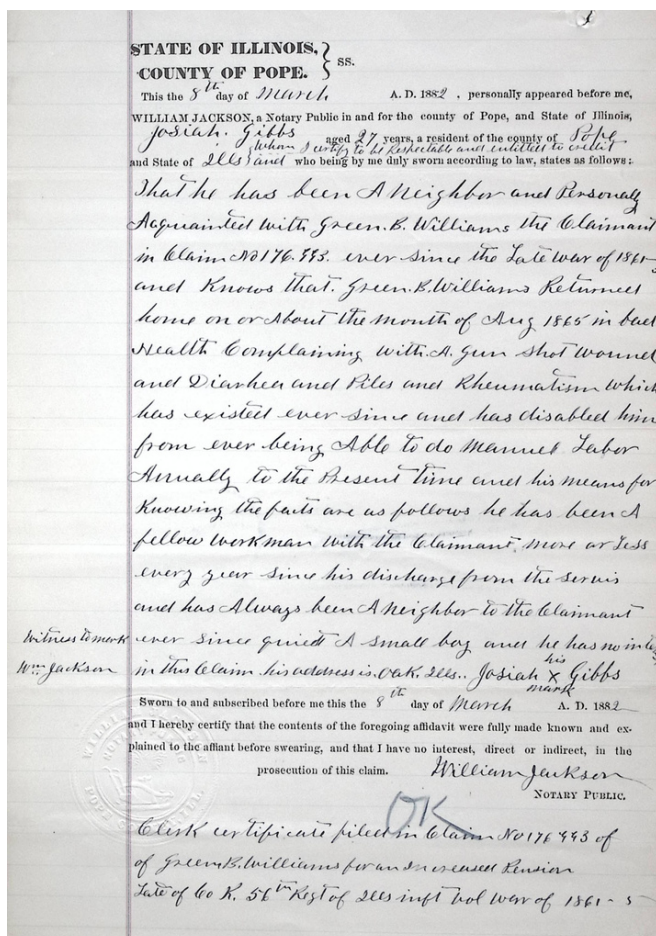


Photo courtesy of
 Jime & Beth Williams

The lasting impact of Williams' war service is preserved with unusual clarity in his pension file, which spans more than four decades. Medical examination established that he suffered a gunshot wound to the left leg, incurred in the line of duty. An examining surgeon recorded that the ball entered approximately six inches above the ankle joint, struck the tibia, deflected, and exited to the rear. Though the wound healed externally, its internal damage proved permanent.

The leg was subject to frequent ulceration, showed marked muscular atrophy, and caused persistent pain radiating along the sciatic nerve. Williams experienced trembling of the foot when standing or walking and could not remain on his feet for extended periods. The examining surgeon concluded that Williams was "*incapacitated for obtaining his subsistence by manual labor from the cause above stated,*" and further certified that "*the disability is incurable.*"

Sworn testimony from neighbors confirmed these findings. In February 1882, Pleasant Gibbs, who had known Williams for thirty years, testified that he had been "*a man in good health prior to date of his enlistment,*" but returned home in August 1865 "*in bad health complaining with a gun shot wound and diarrhea and piles and rheumatism which has existed ever since and has disqualified him from ever being able to do manual labor annually to the present time.*"



Left: A letter from Pleasant's son, Josiah Gibbs who affirmed the extent of Gord's disability. Together with his father Pleasant's letters, these affidavits underscore the close familial and social ties between the Gibbs and Williams families and serve as important corroborating evidence in Gord Williams's pension claim.

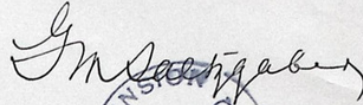
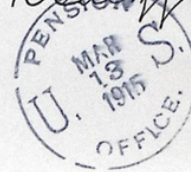
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 2, 1915.

Sir: Please answer, at your earliest convenience, the questions enumerated below. The information is requested for future use, and it may be of great value to your widow or children. Use the inclosed envelope, which requires no stamp.

Very respectfully,

GREEN B. WILLIAMS,
BLANCHARD, ILL.
176993 CIV. WAR

Commissioner.

FOLD HERE.

- No. 1. Date and place of birth? *Answer. Nov. 20 - 1844 Pope County, Illinois*
The name of organizations in which you served? *Answer. 56 Regiment Company K. Illinois Volunteer Infantry*
- No. 2. What was your post office at enlistment? *Answer. Am not sure either Leck or Whiteside*
- No. 3. State your wife's full name and her maiden name. *Answer. Sarah Jane Gibbs*
- No. 4. When, where, and by whom were you married? *Answer. 1865 at New Liberty Baptist Church by Eld John Blanchard.*
- No. 5. Is there any official or church record of your marriage? *I have a family record.*
If so, where? *Answer. me at the Clerk's office at J. Second & Madison*
- No. 6. Were you previously married? If so, state the name of your former wife, the date of the marriage, and the date and place of her death or divorce. If there was more than one previous marriage, let your answer include all former wives. *Answer. I never was married but once and my wife is still living*
- No. 7. If your present wife was married before her marriage to you, state the name of her former husband, the date of such marriage, and the date and place of his death or divorce, and state whether he ever rendered any military or naval service, and, if so, give name of the organization in which he served. If she was married more than once before her marriage to you, let your answer include all former husbands. *Answer. she never was married until she married me.*
- No. 8. Are you now living with your wife, or has there been a separation? *Answer. There never has been any separation and are still living together*
- No. 9. State the names and dates of birth of all your children, living or dead. *Answer. F. M. Williams Jan. 20. 1867. Wm. T. Williams June 11. 1868. Martha Williams April 29. 1870. David S. Williams Aug 20. 1872. Johnathan Williams Sept 8. 1874. Geo. W. Williams March 16. 1877. James P. Williams Jan. 20. 1879. Anna Williams Feb. 1. 1881. Mark Williams Jan 21. 1882. Clara Williams. July 27. 1884. Renda Williams Aug 12. 1886. Newton Williams Feb 14. 1890. Fanny Williams Aug 27. 1892.*

FOLD HERE.

Date *March 10. 1915*(Signature) *Green B. Williams*

e 9-272

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
COUNTY OF POPE. } SS.

This the 25 day of Feb A. D. 1882, personally appeared before me,
WILLIAM JACKSON, a Notary Public in and for the county of Pope, and State of Illinois,

Pleasant Gibbs aged 58 years, a resident of the county of Pope
and State of Ills } who being by me duly sworn according to law, states as follows:

That he has been A neighbor and Personally Acquain-
ted with Green B. Williams the claimant in claim
No 176.443 for thirty years and knew him to be
A man in good Health Prior to date of his enlist-
ment as Private in Co K. 56th Regt. of Ills. Inf
and further says that he has been a neighbor ever
since the war of 1861-5 and knows that
G. B. Williams Returned home on or About the
month of Aug 1865 in bad Health compla-
ining with A gun shot wound and Diarrhea
and Piles and Rheumatism which has existed
ever since and has disqualified him from
ever being able to do manual Labor annally
to the Present time and he has no interest in

Witness to mark Said Claim and his P. O. address is
William Jackson Oak. Ills Pleasant X Gibbs

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 25 day of Feb A. D. 1882

and I hereby certify that the contents of the foregoing affidavit were fully made known and ex-
plained to the affiant before swearing, and that I have no interest, direct or indirect, in the
prosecution of this claim.

William Jackson
NOTARY PUBLIC.

Clerk certificate filed in claim No 176.443 of
Green B. Williams for an Increased Pension
Late of Co K. 56th Regt of Ills infd war of 1861-5

Among the documents preserved in Gord's Civil War pension file is a particularly compelling piece of family testimony: 2 sworn affidavits written by Pleasant Gibbs, who attested to the daily physical disabilities Gord endured as a result of his military service in defense of the Union. Pleasant's statement offers a firsthand account of Gord's impaired ability to perform manual labor and provides valuable insight into the long-term consequences of his wartime service.

State of Illinois
County of Pope

This the 25th day of February A.D. personally appeared before me, William Jackson, a notary public, in and for the county of Pope, Pleasant Gibbs aged 59 years, a resident of the county of Pope and State of Ills whom I certify to be respectable and entitled to credit and who being by me duly sworn according to law, states as follows:

That he has been a neighbor and personally acquainted with Green B. Williams the claimant in claim No. 176.993 for thirty years and knew him to be a man in good health prior to date of his enlistment as Private in Co K. 56th Regt of Ills Vol and further says that he has been a neighbor ever since the war of 1861 - 1865 and knows that G. B. Williams returned home on or about the month of Aug 1865 in bad health complaining with a gun shot wound and diarrhea and piles and rheumatism which has existed ever since and has disqualified him from ever being able to do manual labor annually to the present time and he has no interest in said claim and his P.O. address is Oak Ills

His
Pleasant X Gibbs
Mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25th day of Feb A.D. 1882 and I hear by certify that the contents of the foregoing affidavit were fully made known and explained to the affiant before swearing, and that I have no interest direct or indirect in the prosecution of this claim.

William Jackson
Notary Public,

Clerk Certificate Filed in claim No. 176.993 of Green B. Williams for an increase in pension late of Co. K. 56th Regt of Ills Inf Vol War 1861 o 1865

In September 1885, Gibbs again testified that Williams was “totally disable to perform manual labor but dose perform about one tenth of manual labor owen to his family needs,” based on visits “every few days.” The phrasing reveals a man who worked not because he was able, but because responsibility demanded it.

State of Illinois
Pope County

Affidavid of Plesant Gibb of Oak P.O. County Pope State of Illinois age – 63 years whome I believe to be a creditable witness appears before me in person and maid the following statement to wit: I have bin acquainted with G B Williams for 5 five years best. I have witnessed his house every few days and I really beleave that he, G B Williams, is totally disable to perform manual labor but dose perform about one tenth of manual labor owen to his family needs. My means of knowing the same is being in his company every few days. This the 21 day of September 1885

Plesant Gibbs (SEAL)

State of Illinois,
Pope County

I, G B Hart a justice of the peace for said county do hear by certify that Pleasant Gibbs appired before me in person and maid oath to the above statement and assignne the same in my presents date the 21 day of Sept 1885

G B Hart
Justice of the Peace



Back row: James Pleasant “J.P.” Williams, Unknown, Priscilla Moyers Fulgham, maybe Mary P. Fulgham, boy unknown, Alice Fulgham Williams. Youngest boy in front Al Williams

Eddyville, Ill. July 10 1908
Hon N. Warner, Pension Commissioner
Washington D.C.
Dear Sir Enclosed find application
filled out for Pension Increase. also find
affidavit by James W Dixon, M.D. I will
ask that you appoint some Medical Board
to examine me at home. at once. I have
bin in bad health for long. haven't bin
out of my own yard but twice for the
past 18 months. hoping to get an early
examination - I am Respectfully,
Green B. Williams.

Eddyville, Ill July 10 1908
Hon. N Warner Pension Commissioner
Washington D.C.

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increase. also find affidavit by James W. Dixon M.D. I will ask
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Green B. Williams

Later surgeon's reports documented a worsening condition: chronic diarrhea, chronic rheumatism, progressive disease of the stomach, liver, abdomen, and rectum, cardiac murmurs, respiratory weakness, and general emaciation. Physicians noted that Williams required restricted diet, regular assistance, and ultimately classified him as totally and permanently helpless.

In July 1908, Gord himself wrote to the Pension Commissioner:

"I have been in bad health for long. Haven't bin out of my own yard but twice for the past 18 months."

The Pension Bureau responded with successive increases—from \$30, to \$50, and finally \$72 per month by 1912, a rate reserved for veterans whose disabilities were severe and unquestionable.

EXAMINING SURGEON'S CERTIFICATE

IN THE CASE OF AN ORIGINAL APPLICANT.

No. of Application, 270966

State: Illinois County: Peoria
Post Office: Yolanda Oct 27, 1880.

I hereby certify That I have carefully examined
Green B. Williams, late a Private
Applicant's service. Co. H, 56 Reg't, Ill vol
in the service of the United States, who is an APPLICANT for an
invalid pension by reason of alleged disability resulting from
Gun shot wound Left leg

Degree of disability. In my opinion the said Applicant's degree
is One half incapacitated for obtaining his subsistence
by manual labor from the cause above stated.

Origin. Judging from his present condition, and from the evidence before
me, it is my belief that the said disability did originate
in the service aforesaid in the line of duty.

Probable duration. The disability is Incurable

A more particular description of the applicant's condition is subjoined:

Particular description. Height, 6-1; weight, 141; complexion, Dark;
age, 37; pulse, 78 soft; respiration, full

Has Gun shot wound Left leg. The ball entered
6 inches above ankle joint and out side of and
against Shin bone of tibia popped backwards coming
out 2 inches back of and on a line with the
wound of entrance. The leg frequently ulcerates
as the member of Acute's shoes. muscles of left leg
shot atrophied. The wound is entirely muscular. Has
pains all through the limb Especially along course
of the Sciatic nerve. Complains of numbness of foot
when standing or walking, cannot do his work
one half of the time

H. W. McCoy

Examining Surgeon.

SURGEON'S CERTIFICATE

Insert character and number of claim. *Increase* Pension Claim No. *176993*
 Name of claimant. *Green B Williams* Address *Polconda* P. O.
 Company *756 Reg't Ill. Vol Inf.* State. *Ill.*
 Claimant's post-office address. *Blanchard Ill.* Date of examination. *December 17, 1908*
 Names of disabilities. *Gunshot wound of left leg, chronic rheumatism, Disease of heart, diarrhea & hemorrhoids & disease of liver*

He receives a pension of *\$30* dollars per month.
 He makes the following statement in regard to the origin of his disabilities and date when first discovered by him: *Gunshot wound of left leg - Missionary Lodge Tenn. in Sept 1863. Chronic Diarrhea at Camp Clear Creek Mo. 1864. Rheumatism at Little Rock Ark. 1865. Heart disease followed soon after. Hemorrhoids at Paducah 1861. Long disease of liver just when, but first had attack, was in hospital at St. Louis.*
 Birthplace, *Pope County, Ill.*; age, *65* years; height, *5-11*; weight, *126* pounds; complexion, *Dark*; color of eyes, *Brown*; color of hair, *Black*; occupation, *Farmer*; permanent marks and scars other than those described below, *None*

We hereby certify that upon examination we find the following objective conditions:

Pulse rate, *75-96-108*; respiration, *24-28-36*; temperature, *97 1/2*;
 [Sitting, standing, after exercise.] [Sitting, standing, after exercise.]

Here give a full description of the disability, in accordance with Book of Instructions, and make a separate paragraph for each disability.
Gunshot wound left leg - missile entered just outside crease of thigh at about the junction lower and middle third of leg, and passed backward and outward just under the skin making a slit about 1 1/2 inches from point of entrance. Cicatrices are healthy, not adherent or dragging.

Chronic Rheumatism. Both shoulder & elbow joints, both hip & knee joints & ankle joints in fact every large joint in the body including the vertebral joints are stiff & sore but worse in right side. The right hip & shoulder joints give a great deal of pain on motion. The arm & leg are in a little above horizontal and right arm only about 45° and is exceedingly painful. Right hip & leg movements very painful and limited. He walks with great difficulty by the aid of cane and can step only about 4 foot in walking. He cannot right to his mouth only with great effort. All the joints stiff, tendons contracted, but no swelling. He is very much stooped and cannot straighten at all. He is 2 in. shorter now than when he enlisted. He cannot rise from chair, without assistance of some one or else a chair. He cannot pull up by. Ankles are swollen each evening but leave mostly during the night. He has a very emphatic sin below and in right of nipple, both seen and felt. Action very feeble but irritable. 1st sound short, 2nd sound prolonged, followed by a gurgling murmur due to mitral incompetence. There is hypertrophy and dilatation. There is dyspnoea, cyanosis and slight oedema.

Tongue broad & thick, heavily coated, dark brown, fissured edges very red, skin dry, eczematous, very much emaciated, no subcutaneous fat. Conjunctiva injected, slightly jaundiced. Stomach is retracted and hard, very tender has dyspepsia, fiver area of dullness is decreased. Spleen at the 5th rib and extends nearly to border of ribs and without it in of median line and is very sensitive. Spleen is slightly enlarged and very sensitive. Abdomen is

When rates are recommended solely on subjective evidence the strongest reasons must be given therefor.

Facts within the knowledge of the Board, or any member thereof, relative to the cause of any disability found should be stated.

Whenever a disability is shown or is believed to be due to an aggravated by vicious habits the opinion of the board must be stated. When not due to such habits this fact must be stated.

Marginal entries must never be made.

PROCEEDINGS.

FRIDAY MORNING.

TEMPLE HILL, ILL., SEPT. 22, 1905.

The Union United Baptist Association convened with Cole Springs Baptist church in its thirty eighth annual session.

At ten o'clock Association called to order by the Moderator.

Prayer was offered by Eld. J. K. Trovillion.

Introductory sermon preached by Eld. W. A. Spence. Text 2nd Cor. 13:11. Theme: In union there is strength.

W. T. Holfield read the letters from the churches represented; the clerk recording the names of messengers.

Eld. E. R. Steagall, Dr. Trovillion and J. W. Heaton Sr. were appointed committee on finance.

Eld. W. A. Spence was re-elected Moderator and Eld. L. L. Smoot Clerk.

Rules of Decorum read by the clerk.

Cypress and New Ninevah each presented petitionary letters upon which they were received into fellowship with the Association and hand of fellowship extended to their messengers by the Moderator.

Corresponding Messengers.

Big Saline—J. M. Hart and G. B. Williams.

Creal Springs College—J. W. Heaton, Sr.

General Association—Eld. B. F. Rodman.

Despite physical decline, Gord remained a respected community figure. He served nine years as School Director, reflecting public trust and a commitment to education that contrasted with his own limited schooling. He was a Third-Degree member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Eddyville and remained deeply engaged in Baptist congregational life.

He appears in the Concord Baptist Church minutes during the 1880s, and in 1905—even as his health deteriorated—was elected a messenger for Big Saline Baptist Church, a role entrusted only to members held in high esteem. Messengers served as representatives and voices of their congregation, and Williams' election speaks to the respect he retained despite physical confinement.



Back left: James Pleasant "J.P." Williams, George Washington Williams, Unknown, Dorothy Franklin (holding baby)
In front of JP: Effie Lambert, wife of G. W. Williams. Others unknown. Circa 1937

Census records place Williams in Polk Township, Pope County, in 1900 and 1910, confirming that he remained rooted in the same rural community throughout his later life. He lived nearly a decade after his 1908 letter, enduring prolonged disability with quiet restraint.

Gord died on 10 April 1917, at the age of seventy-five, in Pope County, Illinois, and was buried at Eddyville. His pension was formally dropped the following month. His wife, Sarah Jane Gibbs Williams, survived him until 1924, having shared more than fifty years of marriage marked by war, hardship, faith, and family responsibility.

Greenberry Gordon Williams' life reflects the experience of countless Union veterans who returned home impaired yet remained central figures within their families, churches, and communities. His story survives not only through county histories and census records, but through affidavits, medical examinations, and his own restrained words—documents that preserve the long human cost of war.

Within the Williams-Gibbs family, Gord stands as a bridge between frontier settlement and modern memory: a man shaped by the land, transformed by war, and sustained by faith, kinship, and endurance. His war ended in 1865, but its consequences followed him to the grave.



New Liberty Blanchard Cemetery
Eddyville, Pope County, Illinois

Williams Family Holds Reunion At Palmer Home

The descendants of the Rev. Gord Williams of Blanchard in Pope county met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Orval Palmer and son, Wade, of Herod, Sunday with a basket dinner at the noon hour. The Rev. Lowell Williams asked the blessing.

The afternoon was spent in visitation and picture taking.

Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Charlie VanMeter Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Renzo Horton, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Bryon, Mr. and Mrs. Lyndell Futch and son, Mr. and Mrs. George Williams, all of near Harrisburg and Carrier Mills;

Mr. and Mr. Cecil Estes, Golconda; Mr. and Mrs. Alvesta Williams and children, Hamburg; the Rev. and Mrs. Lowell Williams and son, Iuka, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Styles, Muncie, Ind.; Mrs. Alberta Horton and children, Wayne, Mich.; a Mrs. Horton of Mitchellville; Mrs. Fern Smith and daughter, Elgin;

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Thompson, Wayne, Mich.; Mrs. Alta Doolin and Fidella, Carbondale; Mr. and Mrs. Bill King and daughter, Peoria; Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, Chaffee, Mo.; Mr. and Mrs. Adriel Williams and daughter, of Missouri; Lynn Collins, Fort Campbell, Ky.; and Bernie Vogt of Marion.

The Daily Register

Harrisburg, Illinois · Thursday, September 05, 1963

Eddyville Ill
June 9-1924
Our undertakes bill for
Sarah Jane Williams
is Casket & Box \$85.00
Burial Suit \$8.00
and is unpaid
So we hold I N Williams
for this debt
John K Maynard & Son
By John N Maynard.

Eddyville Ill
June 9 - 1924

Our undertakers bill for Sarah Jane Williams is
casket & Box \$85.00
Burial Suit \$8.00

\$93.00

and is unpaid
So we hold I N Williams
for this debt

John K Maynard & Son
By John N Maynard

Excerpt from: The Biographical Review of Johnson, Massac, Pope & Hardin counties, Illinois.

Published 1893, Chicago Biographical Pub. Co.

GREEN B. WILLIAMS, a prominent farmer of Pope County, was born in 1844 and is a son of Josiah Williams, who was also born, it is believed, in Pope County, March 20, 1808, and was the eldest child of John Williams, who was probably born in Virginia, and came to Illinois about the time the Indians were removed from Virginia, that is about 1832. He was a farmer, and died on his farm in Pope County about 1858, having been the father of ten children, of whom but three grew to manhood, viz: John, a farmer and a Methodist minister, residing in Pope County, who has a family; James, who died at the age of twenty two years; and Josiah, who married Hannah Mahala Hathaway.

The maternal grandfather was one of the very first settlers in southern Illinois and died at an early age either in Pennsylvania or Virginia; his widow came to Illinois about 1818. His nearest neighbor at first was some ten miles away and was a squatter on land about four miles northeast of the present home of Green B. Williams. He first had to go twenty miles to mill but soon made a hand mill in which to grind corn. He was a successful and prosperous man, owning at the time of his death three hundred and sixty acres of land.

The parents of our subject lived in Pope County all their lives except for two years' residence in Missouri, and had twelve children, six sons and six daughters, of whom Green B. was the seventh child and fourth son in order of birth. The father of these children died December 1, 1863, at the age of fifty-five years, and his wife passed away July 3, 1874, at the age of sixty-three years. They were well situated in life, and all their property was unencumbered by debt. Five of their children are living, viz: Permelia, wife of T. G. Gibbs, a farmer of Kentucky; Phoebe, wife of P.M. Gibbs, of Saline County, Ill.; Green B.; Francis Marion, a farmer of Missouri; and Cynthia, wife of S. L. Hayes, a farmer of Pope County. Green B. Williams was brought up on a farm and during his boyhood days received but little education; but during his four years' service in the Civil War, he learned to read and write. He enlisted when he was twenty years of age, in November 1861, in Company K, Fifty-sixth Illinois Infantry, under command of Capt. W. R. Floyd. He was on duty during the entire term of his service, except for three months in the hospital, and two furloughs, one of ten and one of twenty days. He was wounded in the left leg at Missionary' Ridge by a ball and was off duty a few days in consequence.

Mr. Williams was married December 24, 1865, to Miss Sarah J. Gibbs, of Hardin County, Ill.; the wedding occurred in Pope County, where they soon afterward settled on a farm, upon which they lived until removing to their present ninety-five-acre farm on section 27 in 1881. They have buried two infant children, and have the following living: Francis M., a farmer nearby, who has a wife and one daughter; William T., a young man, now married; Martha Catherine, wife of George T. Hancock, a farmer of Pope County, who has two sons; David S., a young man at home; George W., fifteen years old; James P., thirteen; Anna Viola, eleven; Mark, ten; Clara Etta, eight; Lorinda Bell, six; Isaac Newton, three, and Fanny M., one year old. Mr. Williams is a Third-Degree Odd Fellow, holding membership with Lodge No. 615, at Eddyville, and is a Republican in politics. He has served as School Director nine years, and in his religious affairs he is a member of the United Baptist Church, in the work of which he takes an active part and is a most interesting exhorter.

PHOEBE (WILLIAMS) GIBBS

Ruled Insane by Family in 1899 - Dead Sixteen Days Later

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.	SECRETARY OF BOARD.	TREASURER.	CHIEF CLERK.	MEDICAL STAFF.
COL. L. KRUGHOPF, H. H. KOHN SAMUEL HASTINGS.	C. E. KIRKPATRICK.	J. B. JACKSON.	JAS. P. MOONEYHAN.	DR. A. B. BRATTIN, Senior Physician. DR. M. D. BAKER, Physician at Annex DR. SAMUEL DODDS, Junior Physician.
ILLINOIS SOUTHERN HOSPITAL.				
W. A. STOKER, M. D., Superintendent.				
Visitors Not Allowed on Sunday or Holidays.	~~~~~			Address all Correspondence to the Superintendent.
Anna, Illinois, <u>May 2</u> 1899				
<i>County Judge</i> <i>Golconda Ill</i> <i>Dear Sirs</i> <i>Mrs Phoebe Gibbs, late patient here</i> <i>from your county, died April 27, 1899, of</i> <i>maniacal exhaustion</i> <i>Respectfully</i> <i>W. A. Stoker</i> <i>Supt</i>				

On April 11, 1899, Phoebe (Williams) Gibbs—wife of Pleasant M. Gibbs and sister of Greenberry “Gord” Williams—was formally adjudged insane by the court in Pope County, Illinois. The petition was filed by her nephew, James Pleasant Williams. The court further recorded testimony from Francis Marion Williams and Fannie D. Williams, each identified as having direct knowledge of her condition. All three—James Pleasant Williams, Francis Marion Williams, and Fannie D. Williams—were children of Greenberry “Gord” Williams, Phoebe’s brother, and thus her immediate blood relatives and fellow descendants of Josiah Williams.

This is historically significant. In the 1890s, most women institutionalized in Illinois were committed by their own male kin. The legal structure baked in the assumption that husbands, brothers, and nephews were the rightful judges of a woman’s mental state — and their testimony typically carried more legal weight than any medical opinion.

After the ruling, Phoebe was sent to the Illinois Southern Hospital for the Insane at Anna, the primary state institution for the lower half of Illinois. Although “moral treatment” was the official philosophy, in practice the Anna facility functioned as custodial containment. Families sent people they could not manage, and the hospital supervised them.

Phoebe died at Anna just sixteen days later, on April 27, 1899. Her death certificate lists the cause as “Maniacal Exhaustion.” In 19th-century medical language, this meant death caused by the body’s collapse under prolonged agitation or severe mental distress. This phrase appears frequently on asylum deaths in Illinois between the 1870s–1900s, especially for women.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, } ss. In County Court of Pope County,
 County of Pope } April Term, 1899.
 No. _____

To the Hon. A. A. Whiteside Judge of said Court:

Your petitioner James P. Williams
 would respectfully represent that he is a reputable citizen of said County, and that he believes that
Phoebe Gibbs a resident of Pope County, is
 insane, or suffering under mental derangement, and unsafe to be at large, and that the welfare of himself
 or others requires her restraint or commitment to some Hospital or Asylum for the insane. The facts in the
 case can be proven by _____ a regular practicing physician,
 having personal knowledge of said case, and by Francis M. Williams
Fannie D. Williams having personal knowledge
 of said case
 all whom are residents of this County, and that the said Phoebe Gibbs
 has no property or effects the safe keeping of which will require the appointment of a
 Conservator
 wherefore your petitioner prays that a writ be issued for said Phoebe Gibbs

and that a Venire may be issued for a jury of six good and lawful men, one
 at least of said jurors to be a qualified physician, or that in the discretion of the Court, a commission of two
 qualified physicians be appointed to determine the truth of the allegations in the foregoing petition contained,
 and also, that a subpoena be issued for the witnesses named, returnable at such time as may be fixed by your
 Honorable Court, and that proceedings be had to inquire into the alleged insanity of said Phoebe
Gibbs

James P. Williams being duly sworn, deposes and says that the foregoing
 petition by him subscribed is true to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

J. P. Williams X

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 11 day of April A. D. 1899

Joseph L. Lay
 Clerk of the County Court.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., July 31, 1893.—This form of blank was prepared and adopted by the State Board of Public Charities July 25, 1893, and approved by
 the Governor and Attorney-General July 31, 1893.
 GEO. F. MINN, Secretary State Board Public Charities.

What is striking is that Pleasant M. Gibbs was still alive during these events. He appears in the 1900 census (June) living in the household of Phoebe's brother Greenberry Gord Williams — the same sibling whose adult children initiated Phoebe's institutional commitment. Pleasant likely died soon after.

Phoebe's final weeks illuminate a structural system:

- Pope County relatives petitioned the court
- the court stripped her legal agency
- the state hospital confined her
- she died within days of losing her civil status

In the 1890s, more than half of all women admitted to Illinois asylums came in by family petition. Phoebe's case is not an anomaly — it is prototypical. It shows in miniature how 19th-century rural Illinois handled female mental crisis: through legal dispossession, family testimony, rapid institutionalization, and a medical vocabulary that defined suffering only by its symptoms.

Phoebe's story is therefore not marginal — it is a core window into how women's lives could end in southern Illinois at the turn of the century.



2nd from left: Cora (Cummins) Gibbs, wife of Harve Gibbs
Others unknown, possible Williams relatives



Francis Marion Williams, son of
Greenberry Gord Williams

The Gibbs & Williams Settlement

Cornelius's son Thomas Greenberry "Green" Gibbs and grandson Alexander Gibbs, our direct ancestors, established their homes on land recorded in Township 11 South, Range 6 East, Section 24 of Pope County—terrain now within or bordering the Shawnee. This area lies near the headwaters of Little Lusk Creek, one of the most scenic and geologically remarkable parts of the modern forest. Today, hikers visiting Lusk Creek Canyon traverse ground that once bore the footprints of Gibbs & Williams family plows and livestock.

Parts of this tract were not first entered by the Gibbs family. It was originally purchased from the federal land office at Shawneetown on November 10, 1855, by John Williams, placing the Williams family among the earliest private landholders along Little Lusk Creek. Upon John Williams's death in 1860, the property passed to his son Josiah Williams. One of Josiah's daughters, Permelia Williams, married Thomas Greenberry Gibbs, binding the Gibbs family directly into the Williams landholding network through marriage as well as proximity.

Over time, this land would be purchased by John A Wasson who would eventually sell the land back to a group of Gibbs and Williams relatives in 1874 and documented in the 1880 Federal Census as mentioned in the first chapter of this book.

Green Gibbs's farm, and later Alexander's, were part of the slow transformation of southern Illinois from frontier to managed land. Yet by the early 20th century, overuse and erosion began to take their toll. Hillsides stripped for pasture or timber washed away in the rains, leaving "bald knobs" and gullies where soil had once been rich and black.

Many of the small farms, including those once tended by families like the Gibbs, were eventually abandoned or sold to the federal government during the Great Depression.

The federal Land Utilization Program of the 1930s sought to reclaim exhausted farmland throughout the Midwest and South. In southern Illinois, the Resettlement Administration and later the U.S. Forest Service purchased thousands of such tracts for reforestation and erosion control. By 1939, these lands were consolidated and officially designated as the Shawnee National Forest—the only national forest in Illinois.

Thus, the very hills that had sustained the Gibbs family for nearly a century became part of a federally protected landscape. Cornelius's 1850s holdings in Saline County remained just beyond the forest's northern edge, while his son and grandson's lands in Pope County now lie within the forest's administrative boundary. Their story mirrors the broader history of the region—one of settlement, use, decline, and eventual renewal.

Today, visitors to the Shawnee National Forest encounter a restored wilderness of oaks, pines, and sandstone cliffs—but beneath the forest canopy lies the ghostly imprint of 19th-century farms. Old roadbeds, stone fences, and faint house foundations still mark where families like the Gibbs once cleared fields and built lives from the rough soil.

The Gibbs family's relationship with this landscape is thus a microcosm of American land history: from public domain acquisition to private cultivation, and finally to collective stewardship under national protection. Cornelius's choice of land in 1847—rolling ground, with water nearby—demonstrates the practical instincts of a pioneer farmer. His descendants' persistence in the same region for nearly a century testifies to deep roots in the soil of southern Illinois.

2

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CERTIFICATE }
No. 22769 }

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas John Williams of Pope County, Illinois,

has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE at Shawneetown, whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said

John Williams

according to the provisions of the

Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for

the West half of the South West quarter of Section Thirteen; and the North half of the North West quarter; and the South West quarter of the North West quarter of Section Twenty four, in Township Eleven, South of Range Six, East, in the District of Lands Subject to Sale at Shawneetown, Illinois, containing Two Hundred Acres,

according to the official plot of the Survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said tract has been purchased by the said

John Williams:

NOW KNOW YE, That the

United States of America, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said

John Williams

and to his heirs, the said tract above described: ~~to have and to hold~~ the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said

John Williams

and to his heirs and assigns forever

In Testimony Whereof, I,

Franklin Pierce

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the

in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and

INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the

Tenth day of November

fifty five

and of the

Eighth

Franklin Pierce

BY THE PRESIDENT:

By M. E. Baldwin ~~of the~~ Secretary

J. N. Granger Recorder of the General Land Office.

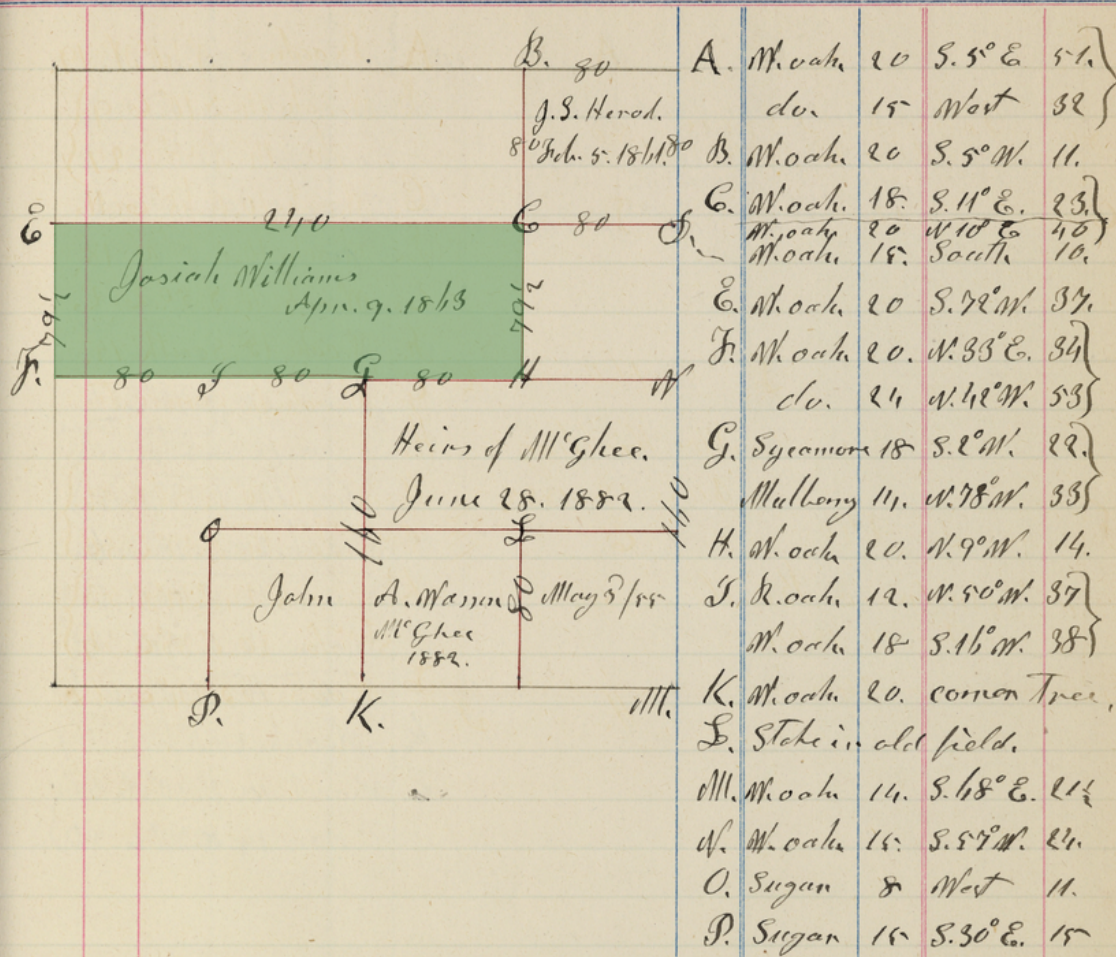


my name and affix my seal on the Day and year aforesaid
 John J. W. Wall Justice of the peace ^{of Pope County Ill.} James Henry Clark & Border
 This Indenture made and into this First Day of December in the year
 of our Lord one thousand eight and sixty between James Floyd
 Executor of the Last will and Testament of John Williams sen
 Deced and Rebecca Williams wife of the said John Williams all
 of the County of Pope and State of Illinois of the first part and Josiah
 Williams of the same County and State aforesaid of the second part
 witnesseth that the said party of the first part for and in consideration
 of the sum of three hundred and fifty four Dollars current money
 of the United States in hand paid by the party of the second part
 the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have granted bargained
 sold conveyed and confirmed and doth by the Last will and Testament
 of the said John Williams due grant bargain sell convey and confirm
 unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns forever
 all their interest in and to a certain tract of Land or lot of ground
 Lying and being in the County of Pope and State of Illinois and ^{being} ~~containing~~
 as follows to wit S W, N W, 40 acres S W, N, E, 40 acres S E, N W, 40 acres
 Containing 120 acres all in Section Twenty four Township 18 E Eleven
 South of Range 24 East To have and to hold the aforesaid tract of
 Land or lot of ground together with all and singular the rights
 profits Tenements and Improvements thereunto belonging or in any
 wise thereunto appertaining to the only use benefit and behoof
 of the said Josiah Williams the said party of the second part
 his heirs and assigns forever and the party of the first part doth
 Covenant and agree to warrant and defend the said tract
 of Land so far as they are concerned to him the said party of the
 second part his heirs and assigns and against the claim
 of them the said party of the first part their heirs and assigns
 forever in testimony whereof the party of the first part have
 hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year above
 written James Floyd Justice of the Peace at Pope County Illinois personally
 Examined and sworn to by the said party of the second part an
 Executor of the Last will and Testament of John Williams sen
 Deced and Rebecca Williams wife of the said John Williams sen
 Deced who being examined by me said
 that she freely and voluntarily relinquished her right of Dower in
 said premises and also her Homestead exemption to said lands
 conveyed to the said Josiah Williams Given under my hand and
 seal this 1 Day of December A.D. 1860 John J. Wallson J.P.
 this 8 Day of December 1860 at Pope County Ill. James Henry Clark Recorder

Pope County Probate Book, 1860

Probate proceedings documenting the transfer of land to Josiah Williams following the death of his father. The record formalizes Josiah's inheritance of the family property located in Section 24, reflecting the legal process by which frontier landholdings were settled and passed to heirs. Such documents not only confirm family relationships but also provide important evidence of residence, property ownership, and the continuity of the Williams family's presence in the area during the nineteenth century.

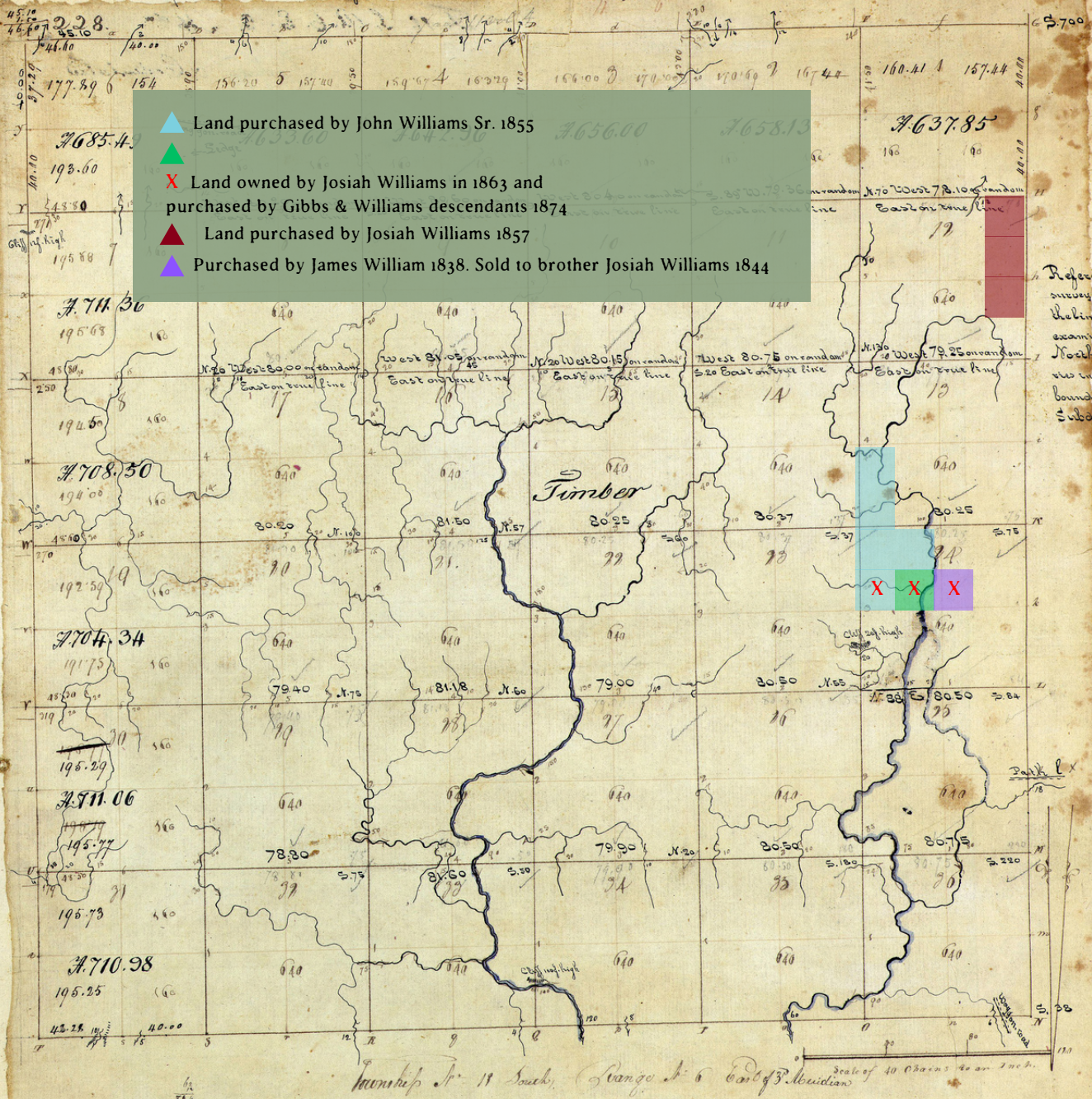
Sect. 24, Town. 11. R. 6.



Pope County Survey Plat Book, 1830s-1890s

Plat map entry showing land owned by Josiah Williams in Section 24, Township 11 South, Range 6 East of Pope County, Illinois, as recorded in an early county plat book. These maps were created to document property ownership and the arrangement of farms within the township, providing a visual record of settlement patterns in the region. The appearance of Josiah Williams on the plat confirms his established presence as a landowner and helps place the Williams family geographically within the rural community of eastern Pope County during the nineteenth century.

Township N. 11 South of the base line in Range N. 6 East of the 3rd principal Meridian.



- ▲ Land purchased by John Williams Sr. 1855
- ▲ Land owned by Josiah Williams in 1863 and purchased by Gibbs & Williams descendants 1874
- ▲ Land purchased by Josiah Williams 1857
- ▲ Purchased by James William 1838. Sold to brother Josiah Williams 1844

Reference to the notes of the survey of this Township by which the lines of this plat have been examined & corrected of the North, West & South boundaries in exhibit 11. of the East boundary in exhibit 9. of the Subdivision in book 222.

Township N. 11 South, Range N. 6 East of 3rd Meridian
Aggregate area = 23460.27 ac

Pursuant to a contract with and Instructions from Sarah Mansfield Esquire Surveyor General of the W. States bearing date the day of I have come around, laid out & surveyed the above described Township and do certify that it had such marks and bounds both natural & artificial as are represented on said plat and as entered in the Field Notes made & returned with this plat into the Surveyor General's Office.

(Calculated)

Witnessed this 11th day of February 1837

Augustus S. Dep. Secy.

160
Surveyors Office
St. Louis February 17th 1837.

The lines of the above plat of Township N. 11 South of the base line in Range N. 6 East of the 3rd principal Meridian have been examined by the notes of the survey thereof referred to in the margin & corrected conformably therewith.

Dan. Durand

Seal
Recorder.

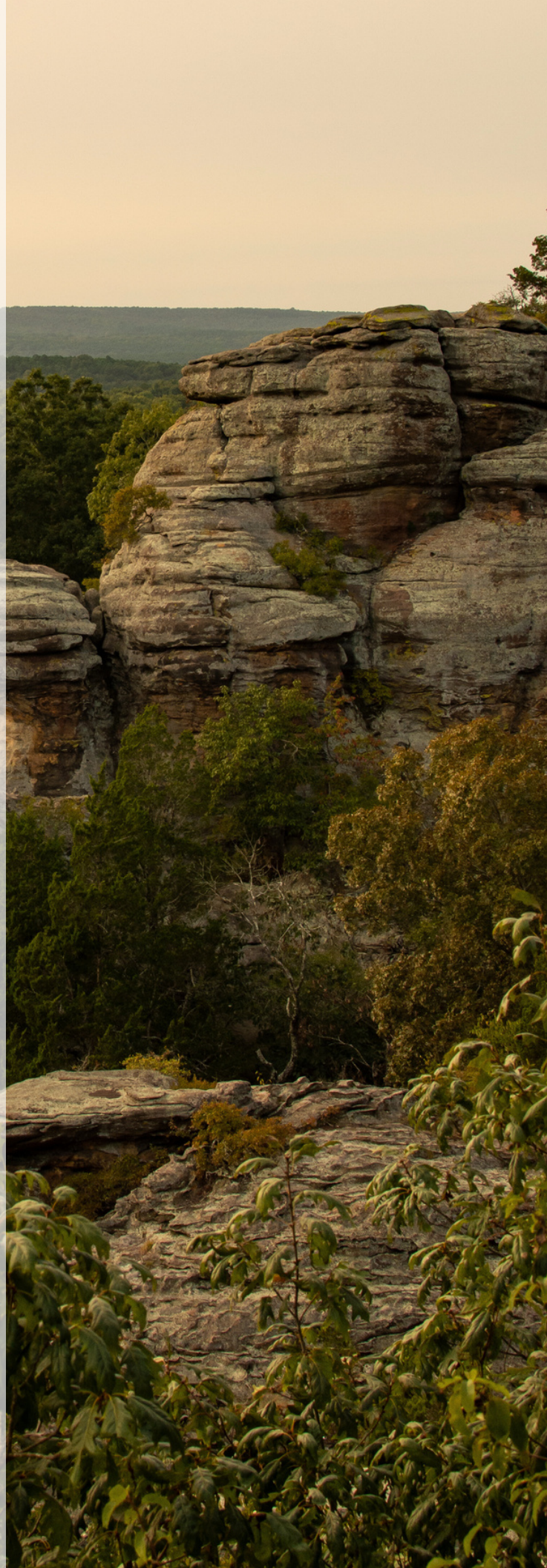
John Hase Jr
Harrington, Delaware Recorder.

Shawnee National Forest & Lusk Creek

In the heart of southern Illinois lies one of the most rugged, ancient, and ecologically diverse landscapes in the Midwest — the Shawnee National Forest. Spanning more than 280,000 acres across Saline, Pope, Hardin, Johnson, and other counties, the forest occupies the rolling hills, sandstone bluffs, and fertile bottomlands of a region once known as the “Illinois Ozarks.” Long before its federal designation in 1939, this was a patchwork of pioneer farms, oak-hickory groves, and cutover timber tracts—an environment that profoundly shaped the lives of settlers like **Cornelius Gibbs** and his descendants.

Cornelius Gibbs settled in this region during the 1840s, a time when the federal government encouraged settlement through public land sales. His purchases, recorded between 1847 and 1854, lay just north of what would later become the boundaries of the Shawnee. Located in Saline County, these parcels formed part of Township 10 South, Range 7 East, Section 30 — a mixture of gently sloping ridges and upland soils typical of the area south of today’s Harrisburg.

Cornelius’ tracts formed a compact, 160-acre plot—an ideal family farm in the standards of mid-nineteenth-century southern Illinois. The land would have supported small-scale mixed agriculture: corn, sorghum, and pasture for hogs and cattle. Timber was abundant, providing both income and building material, while springs and small creeks cut through the nearby ridges feeding into the Saline River watershed.



When Cornelius arrived, this was frontier country. The first permanent settlements in Saline County dated only to the 1820s, and much of the terrain remained heavily wooded. Early travelers described the region as alternating between “oak barrens” and dense forest, where wild game still abounded. The roads were little more than wagon tracks, often impassable in winter.

To live here required resilience and an understanding of the land's rhythms. Cornelius's 1847 patent came at a time when the area was just opening to more intensive settlement. His family's homestead likely stood near one of the ridges north of the present forest boundary, not far from the old Saline Mines district where settlers once extracted salt—a vital early industry of southern Illinois.

Over the following generations, the family's descendants remained in the area, continuing to live and work within the rugged landscape that would later become part of the Shawnee National Forest.

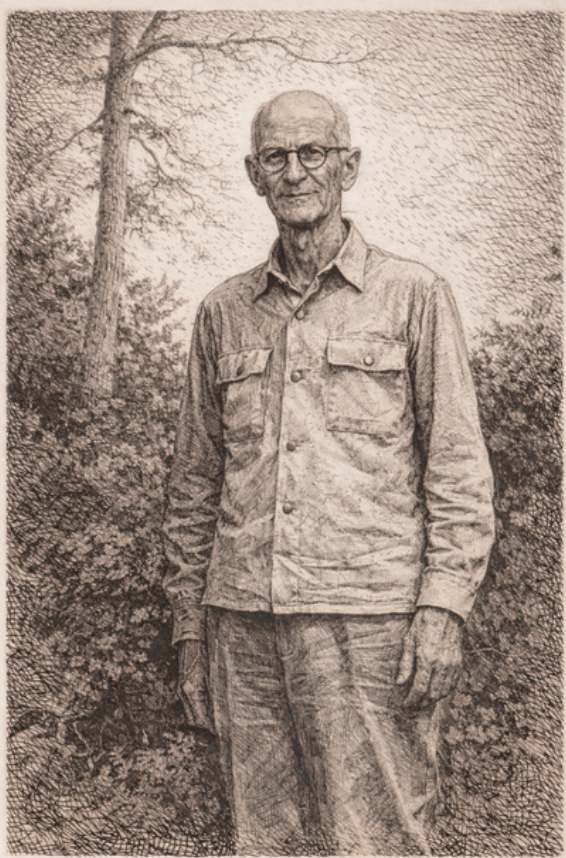


Burden Falls in the Shawnee National Forest

A decorative border surrounds the central text. It consists of four corner squares and four side rectangles. The corner squares feature a complex interlocking knot design with a central flower. The side rectangles feature a repeating floral and foliate pattern. The entire border is rendered in shades of green and gold on a light background.

CHAPTER 5

TOM W.
GIBBS



In the rugged hills and fertile valleys of southern Illinois, where farming, coal mining, and timber defined the rhythm of daily life, **Thomas Wayne Gibbs** was born on August 11, probably 1889, in Pope County, Illinois. He was the son of **William Alexander “Alex” Gibbs** and **Margaret Reynolds**. His early years unfolded in a region shaped by hard physical labor, economic uncertainty, and close-knit rural communities where neighbors depended on one another for survival.

Tom’s childhood was marked by hardship following the early death of his father, which likely occurred before 1900. Left to support several young children, his mother faced significant challenges, and Thomas—like many boys of his generation—was compelled to contribute to his own support at an early age. By 1900, at approximately twelve years old, he appears in the U.S. Census as a boarder, living and working alongside his older brother Virgil on a neighboring farm. Such arrangements were common in southern Illinois, where adolescent boys hired out their labor in exchange for room, board, and modest wages, often rotating between farms as seasonal needs demanded. These formative years instilled in Tom a strong work ethic and a familiarity with agricultural labor that would shape his adult life, reinforcing habits of independence, endurance, and responsibility from a young age.

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

State IllinoisCounty Saline

SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

Supervisor's District

Enumeration District

Township or other division of county Mountain Township

Name of Institution, _____

Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, _____

Enumerated by me on the 16th day of June, 1900, Joseph H. Bennett, Enumerator.

LOCATION.				NAME	RELATION.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.								NATIVITY.			CITIZENSHIP.			OCCUPATION, TRADE, PROFESSION, or each person TEN YEARS and over.	
IN CITIES.				of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family.	Relationship of each person to the head of the family.	Color or race.	Sex.	DATE OF BIRTH.		Age at last birthday.	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced.	Number of years married.	Mother of how many children.	Number of these children living.	Place of birth of each person and parents of each person enumerated. If born in the United States, give the State or Territory; if of foreign birth, give the Country only.			Year of immigration to the United States.	Number of years in the United States.	Naturalization.	OCCUPATION.
Street.	House Number.	Number of dwelling, or place of visitation.	Number of family in the order of relation.	Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any.				Month.	Year.						Place of birth of this person.	Place of birth of father of this person.	Place of birth of mother of this person.				
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
51				Opilo	son	us	22	July	1872	28				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				Farm Labor	
52				Clara	son	us	22	Feb	1865	35				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				Farm Labor	
53				Bliss	son	us	22	Mar	1861	39				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				Farm Labor	
54				Elmer	son	us	22	Feb	1871	29				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				Farm Labor	
55	179	189		Robert	son	us	22	Jan	1870	30				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				Day Labor	
56				Bert	son	us	22	Feb	1876	24				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				Day Labor	
57				Bert	son	us	22	Feb	1877	23				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
58				Bert	son	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
59	180	180		Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				Farm Labor	
60				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
61				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
62				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
63				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
64	181	181		Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				Farm Labor	
65				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
66				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
67	182	182		Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				Farm Labor	
68				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
69	183	183		Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				Day Labor	
70				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
71				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
72				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
73				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
74				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
75				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
76	184	184		Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				Farm Labor	
77				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
78				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
79				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				Farm Labor	
80				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
81				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
82				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
83				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
84				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
85				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				Farm Labor	
86				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
87				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
88	185	185		Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				Farm Labor	
89				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
90				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
91	186	186		Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				Farm Labor	
92				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
93				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
94				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
95				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
96	187	187		Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				Farm Labor	
97				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
98				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
99				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					
100				Martha	daughter	us	22	Feb	1878	22				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois					

1900 Federal US Census

Mountain Township, Saline County, Illinois

One of the earliest documented records of Tom Gibbs appears in the 1900 U.S. Census, which lists him at approximately twelve years of age residing as a boarder alongside his older brother, Virgil, on the farm of William P. Travelstead. By this time, it is likely that Tom's father, Alex Gibbs, had died, leaving his mother responsible for supporting the younger children. In such circumstances, it was common for adolescent boys to live and work on nearby farms, particularly during periods of economic hardship.

Notably, William P. Travelstead was a first cousin once removed of Tom's future wife, Gertie Mattingly. Tom and Gertie married in 1917, and it is possible that their initial acquaintance stemmed from Tom's residence and employment on the Travelstead farm.



William W. Travelstead

b. Dec 15 1797
d. Jun 15 1875



Cynthia A. Harrison

b. Jun 15 1811
d. Jun 15 1885

Anthony A Travelstead
purchased land in Saline County
From Cornelius M. Gibbs Sr



Billy A. Cummins

b. Mar 1 1840
d. Jan 20 1879



Henrietta Travelstead

b. Jan 6 1845
d. Jul 25 1928



A. A. Travelstead

b. Mar 2 1839
d. Mar 5 1928



William H. Mattingly

b. Dec 14 1864
d. Apr 26 1907



Effie Cummins

b. Aug 5 1879
d. Sep 12 1957



William P. Travelstead

b. Nov 22 1862
d. Apr 30 1932

Tom and his brother
Virgil Gibbs boarded on
the William P Travelstead
farm in the 1900 census



Gertie Mattingly

b. Oct 20 1897
d. Nov 1 1977



Tom W. Gibbs

b. Aug 11 1889
d. Nov 11 1957

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

 State Illinois
 County Pope

SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

 Supervisor's 1
 Enumeration

Township or other division of county

Polk PrecinctName of Institution, XName of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, +Enumerated by me on the 21st day of June, 1900,John S. Johnson

Enumerated

LOCATION.	IN CITIES.	NAME	RELATION.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.												NATIVITY.			CITIZENSHIP.			OCCUPATION.
				Relationship of each person to the head of the family.	Color or race.	DATE OF BIRTH.		Age at last birthday.	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced.	Number of years married.	Number of live many children.	Number of children living.	Place of birth of this person.	Place of birth of father of this person.	Place of birth of mother of this person.	Year of immigration to the United States.	Naturalized.	Year of immigration to the United States.	Naturalized.	Year of immigration to the United States.	Naturalized.	OCCUPATION.
Street.	House Number.	of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Exclude every person living on June 1, 1900. Only children born since June 1, 1900.				Month.	Year.															
1	183-183	Otis A.	Son	W. M.	W.	Nov	1891	8	5				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							
2	175-178	Shavone James	Head	W. M.	W.	Feb.	1849	51	M	1			Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
3		Arminda V.	Wife	W. F.	W.	Apr.	1859	41	M	1	6	6	Illinois	Illinois	Kentucky							
4		Bessie B.	Daughter	W. F.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							
5		Mrs. Anna Oscar	Son	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
6		Bertie	Son	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
7		Opha	Son	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
8		Larry C.	Son	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
9		Arthur S.	Son	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
10	184-184	Morse A.	Head	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
11	179-179	Quinn	Head	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
12		Margaret	Wife	W. F.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
13		Arthur S.	Son	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
14	185-185	Quinn	Head	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
15	180-180	Quinn	Head	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
16		Quinn	Head	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
17		Quinn	Head	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
18		Quinn	Head	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
19		Quinn	Head	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
20		Quinn	Head	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
21		Quinn	Head	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
22	186-186	Yates A.	Head	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
23		Yates A.	Head	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
24		Yates A.	Head	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
25		Yates A.	Head	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
26	187-187	Langford	Head	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
27		Langford	Head	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
28		Langford	Head	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
29		Langford	Head	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
30		Langford	Head	W. M.	W.	Mar.	1890	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
31	188-188	Ogleby Charles	Head	W. M.	W.	Nov	1871	28	M	9			Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
32		Rebecca	Wife	W. F.	W.	Dec.	1870	29	M	9	4	2	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
33		Leola D.	Daughter	W. F.	W.	Apr.	1893	7	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
34		Golden B.	Daughter	W. F.	W.	Mar.	1895	5	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
35	189-189	Kibbe Margot	Head	W. F.	W.	Jan	1856	44	S		8	6	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
36		Coria E.	Daughter	W. F.	W.	June	1882	17	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
37		Frankie M.	Daughter	W. F.	W.	May	1891	9	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
38		Elizabeth M.	Daughter	W. F.	W.	Feb.	1894	6	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
39	180-180	William Francis	Head	W. M.	W.	Jan	1867	33	M	9			Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
40		Fanny D.	Wife	W. F.	W.	Apr.	1871	29	M	9	2	2	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
41		Margaret E.	Daughter	W. F.	W.	Sept.	1892	7	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
42		George B.	Son	W. M.	W.	Nov	1896	3	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
43		Conley Harry	Grandmother	W. F.	W.	July	1823	76	M		10	0	Kentucky	North Carolina	North Carolina							Farmer
44	186-186	Haeb John A.	Head	W. M.	W.	Sept.	1874	25	M				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
45		Florus A.	Wife	W. F.	W.	Dec	1877	22	M	3	1	1	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
46		John H.	Son	W. M.	W.	Sept.	1899	1	S				Illinois	Illinois	Illinois							Farmer
47	187-187	Boston William J. D.	Head	W. M.	W.	Mar	1866	34	M	16			Illinois	Tennessee	Tennessee							Farmer
48		David W.	Wife	W. F.	W.	Feb.	1863	37	M	16	5	4	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee							Farmer
49		Robert A.	Son	W. M.	W.	Mar	1884	15	S				Illinois	Illinois	Tennessee							Farmer
50		Charles E.	Son	W. M.	W.	Dec	1888	11	S				Illinois	Illinois	Tennessee							Farmer

 1900 Federal US Census
 Polk Precinct, Pope County, Illinois

While Tom and Virgil were boarding on the Travelstead farm, their mother, Margaret Reynolds Gibbs, is enumerated in the 1900 U.S. Census in Polk Precinct, Pope County, Illinois, residing with her three daughters—Cora, Frankie, and Elizabeth. This location may correspond to the Gibbs-Williams homestead, as Francis Marion Williams, son of Greenberry Gord Williams, appears as a neighboring resident. Additional familiar surnames associated with earlier Gibbs and Williams generations, including MacAnally and Hase, are also listed on the same census page, further suggesting continuity of family settlement in this area.

If this identification is correct, it would indicate that Tom was born on the Gibbs-Williams homestead, land that had remained in his family for four generations prior to his birth.

 160
 Farm Lab
 Farm S.

1	1	3	Wimer	1	Thomas Gibbs	1	25	Years	1	Alex Gibbs	3	First
				2	Rudement	2	White					
				3	Farmer	3	Saline County				Margaret Runch	First
					Clara Clinton Rooten	26	Years				Clara Marion Rooten	

9 - 1 - 1917 Thomas Gibbs of Rudement, Saline County, Illinois. Farmer, 25 years old, white. Parents: Alex Gibbs and Margaret. Grooms first marriage.

Marriage Record M.
117798—Illinois Printing Co., Danville, Ill.

85 7

MARRIAGE LICENSE.

The People of the State of Illinois, County of Saline

To any Person Legally Authorized to Solemnize Marriage—GREETING:

MARRIAGE MAY BE CELEBRATED Between Mr. John Gibbs of Rudement in the County of Saline and State of Illinois of the age of 25 years, and

Miss Gertie Mattwigly of Saline and State of Illinois of the age of 18 years.

WITNESS, H. E. Hills County Clerk, and the seal of Harrisburg in said County, this 1st day of September A. D. 1917

FOR GENEALOGICAL PURPOSES ONLY

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
Saline County, } ss. I, Marshall Keith, a Gospel Minister

hereby certify that Mr. Thomas Gibbs and Miss Gertie Mattwigly were united in Marriage by me at Harrisburg in the County of Saline and State of Illinois, on the 1st day of September A. D. 1917

Marshall Keith
Gospel Minister

FOR GENEALOGICAL PURPOSES ONLY

Filed for Record the _____ day of _____ A. D. 19____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

3	Carrier Mills, Ills.	1	19 Years	1	W. M. Mattingly	1	at Harrisburg, Ill.	1	Sept 5-1917
1	Gertie Mattingly	2	White	2	Eliza Cummins	2	Saline Co. Sept 1 st 1917	2	Oct 30-1917
2	Somerset,	3	Somerset	3	First	3	Virgil Gibbs - Rose Gibbs		
3	Emma Wesler	3	Ill. Sal. Co.	3	Marble Keith, M. G.				

Gertie Mattingly, 19 years old of Somerset, Saline County, Illinois. Parents William Mattingly and Eliza Cummins. Brides first marriage. Married in Harrisburg, Saline County Illinois September 1st 1917. Witnesses Virgil Gibbs & Rose Gibbs



Photo Courtesy: Edna Meadows Butler

William Clarence Gibbs



Photo Courtesy: Edna Meadows Butler

Tom & Gertie Gibbs, circa 1957

Thomas's future wife, Mary Gertrude "Gertie" Mattingly, was born in 1898 into a family long established in Saline County, Illinois. The Mattinglys were among the area's early settlers, with deep roots in communities centered on coal mining and agriculture. By the time of Gertie's birth, her family was well known locally, bound by kinship networks and shared labor to generations of southern Illinois residents. Her early life was marked by loss; her father, William Henry Mattingly (1864-1907), died when she was still a child.

On September 1, 1917, Thomas Gibbs of Pope County married Mary Gertrude "Gertie" Mattingly, the daughter of William Henry Mattingly and Effie Cummins (1870-1957), in Saline County. Their marriage represented the union of two long-standing southern Illinois families—one shaped by frontier hardship and early loss, the other deeply embedded in the social and economic fabric of Saline County.

SALINE VALLEY.

If you want to read the news, take The Register.

A large crowd attended prayer meeting at this place Sunday night.

If you want any fish or mud turtles caught, call on Mrs. Helen McDonald and Katie Sisk.

Marion Wiley and Albert Sisk called on Misses Minnie and Nancy Stricklin Sunday evening.

Miss Myrtle Ewell visited Miss Maud Williams Sunday and Miss Bertie Younger visited Miss Maud Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Alf Karnes and little Fay Graves of Eldorado visited relatives at this place Saturday and Sunday.

Cecil Church and some other little boys were playing Saturday evening and Cecil got a pitchfork stuck through his left foot.

John and Albert Sisk, Hughie and Tom McDonald, Jim Cummings and Virgil Gibbs went to Rocky Branch Saturday night to a dance, but were disappointed.

There will be a basket dinner at this place the fourth Sunday in May. All

Harrisburg Saline County Register
Harrisburg, Il May 8, 1906, Page 3

Thomas's marriage coincided with America's involvement in World War I. He was drafted on May 27, 1918, and initially assigned to the 149th Infantry Regiment on June 14, 1918, followed three days later by placement in Company I. The regiment deployed to France between September and October 1918, but upon arrival it was "skeletonized," with most personnel reassigned as replacements to other units.

In October 1918, Thomas was transferred to Company F, 163rd Infantry Regiment, where he served for approximately two months behind the front lines in France. Although not directly engaged in combat, he was exposed to persistent chemical agents used heavily in that sector. U.S. Army medical reports from this period repeatedly describe the region as "pervaded by mustard gas vapors," warning that even areas believed to be safe could cause burning eyes, blistering skin, persistent cough, nausea, shortness of breath, and raw throats.

Replacement regiments like the 163rd marched constantly, passing through abandoned trenches, gas-contaminated barns used as billets, and forest paths holding pockets of lingering vapor. In this environment, being "gassed" did not necessarily mean a dramatic battlefield collapse. Most American gas casualties were never hospitalized; mild exposures were often treated briefly at regimental aid stations or self-treated and went undocumented.

1885 REGISTRATION CARD		No. 93
1	Name full <i>Thomas Lytle</i>	Age in yrs. <i>25</i>
2	Home address <i>Harrington Ill A3</i>	
3	Date of birth <i>Aug 11 1892</i>	
4	Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify when)? <i>Natural Born</i>	
5	Where were you born? <i>Pape Co Ill</i>	
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?	
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or office? <i>Harrington</i>	
8	By whom employed? <i>Glenn Schmitt</i>	
9	Where employed? <i>Harrington Ill</i>	
9	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? <i>Mother</i>	
10	Married or single (which)? <i>Single</i>	
11	What military service have you had? Rank <i>now</i>	
12	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)?	
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.		
<i>Thomas Lytle</i>		

REGISTRAR'S REPORT	
1	Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? <i>medium</i> Slender, medium, or stout (which)? <i>medium</i>
2	Color of eyes? <i>Blue</i> Color of hair? <i>Light</i> Bald? <i>No</i>
3	Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? <i>No</i>
I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:	
<i>John Brill</i>	
Precinct <i>4</i>	
City or County <i>Salrie</i>	
State <i>Illinois</i>	
	<i>6-5-17</i>

Gibbs, Thomas

Form 1010-P, M. G. O.
(See Sec. 122 S. S. R.)

Local Board for the
County of Saline, State of Ills.,
Harrisburg, Ills.

Local Board for
REPORT OF PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.

Gibbs, Thomas

(Surname.)

(Christian name.)

Serial No. 1885 Order No. 1828

1557886

STATEMENT OF PERSON EXAMINED.

1. Have you found that your health and habits in any way interfere with your ability to earn a livelihood? If so, give details no
2. Do you consider that you are now sound and well? If not, state details yes
3. Have you ever been under treatment in any hospital or asylum? If so, for what ailment? no
Names of hospitals or asylums _____
Dates of admissions and discharges _____
4. Have you been confined to your bed at home under a physician's care within the past year? If so, for what ailment and for what length of time? no

Name of physician _____

When _____

I certify that the foregoing questions and my answers thereto have been read over to me; that I fully understand the questions, and that my answers thereto are correctly recorded and true in all respects. I further certify that I have been fully informed and know that making or being a party to making any false statement as to my fitness for military service renders me liable to punishment by imprisonment.

Place Harrisburg, Ill.

Date 6-13-18

Thomas Gibbs

(Signature of person examined.)

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION BY EXAMINING PHYSICIAN OF LOCAL BOARD.

(Person under examination stripped.)

Weight 127 lbs.; height 65-2 inches.
Girth of chest (at nipples): At expiration 31 inches. At inspiration, 35-2 inches.
General examination (head, chest, abdomen, extremities) normal

Nose and throat normal

Heart normal

Lungs normal

Genito-urinary organs (urine will be examined in suspicious cases) normal

Hernia no Hemorrhoids no

Flat foot or other deformities of feet none

Eyes: good Vision—Right eye, 20-20; left eye, 20-30

Ears: good Hearing—Right ear, 20-20; left ear, 20-20

Teeth: RIGHT. LEFT.

Missing teeth {Upper, 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8} (Strike out those that are missing.)
Lower, 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Remarks

Special entry—Particular qualifications of registrant found to be physically deficient and not physically qualified for general military service (note hereunder any trades, professions, or other civil occupations in which the registrant has had experience) _____

I certify that I have carefully examined the person named on the first page hereof and have carefully recorded the results of the examination, and that it is my judgment and belief that he is physically qualified for general military service.

is ~~physically qualified for general military service.~~
~~physically qualified for general military service.~~

Place Harrisburg, Ill.

Date 3-13-18

J. V. Capel

(Examining physician.)

M. D.

On July 12, 1973, a fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) destroyed approximately 17 million Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF). 80% of US Army records from between 1912 - 1960 were lost. Notice the burnt edge on this and other documents - Tom's records were lucky and part of the 20% that survived the 1973 NPRC fire.

NATIONAL ARMY
ENLISTMENT AND ASSIGNMENT CARD

Army serial number 1527886
Gibbs Thomas * { white
(Surname.) (Christian name in full. See instruction 2.) colored
Assigned to Theriot Co. #15
(Company and regiment or corps or department; if unassigned, so state.)
Residence Route 3
(Street and house number; if none, so state.)
Harrisburg Saline Ill.
(Town or city.) (County.) (State.)
Place of enlistment, i. e., place at which soldier was ordered
to report for military duty, as specified in notice from local
board: Harrisburg Ill.
(Town or city.) (State.)
Date of enlistment, i. e., date specified in notice:
May 27, 1918.
Did soldier report in person at the place and on the date
specified? yes If not, state place and date of reporting:
(Yes or no.)
_____, 191_____
Last service in Regular Army; if none, so state:
None
(Company and regiment or corps or department.)
Discharged _____, 191_____
Last service in National Guard or Organized Militia if
none, so state:
None
(Company and regiment or corps or department.)
Discharged _____, 191_____
He has Bl. eyes, B. hair,
Ruddy complexion, and is 5 feet 6
inches in height. He gave the name and address of the
person to be notified in case of emergency as
Gettie Gibbs (wife)
(Name and degree of relationship; if friend, so state.)
Route 3
(Street and house number; if none, so state.)
Harrisburg Ill.
(Town or city.) (State or country.)

*Strike out word not applicable.



Camp Pontanezen
BREST, FRANCE







Gibbs, Thomas 1557886
Pvt. 1/c1 Cook Company #3, ASC.
REPORT OF CHANGE For the twenty-four
hours ending at midnight July 1, 1919.
Pr Class "B" Leave to duty.
Camp Pontanezen, Brest.
Cook Co. #3, ASC. *Walter W. Marr*
No. 34 Walter W. Marr,
Capt. Inf. USA.
Personnel Adj.

Historians note that hundreds of gas incidents in the 163rd Infantry during the autumn of 1918 were never formally recorded due to the regiment's constant movement. This explains why family histories—such as Thomas's—often preserve accounts of gas exposure absent from official records. The effects of that exposure would trouble him for the remainder of his life.

After the Armistice, on December 6, 1918, Thomas was reassigned to Provisional Cook Company No. 3, Army Service Corps (ASC). The unit was reorganized as a regular Army organization in January 1919, at which time Thomas appears on the official roster. He was promoted to Private First Class in February 1919. During this period, he was stationed at Camp Pontanezen, near Brest, France—a vast logistical hub through which more than 800,000 American troops passed during the war.

Morale at Camp Pontanezen during the winter of 1918–1919 was often low. Soldiers faced overcrowding, food shortages, and the devastating global influenza pandemic. While not a combat site, the camp played a critical role in sustaining the American Expeditionary Forces. Its hardships reflected the broader realities of World War I military life: disease, discomfort, waiting, and the emotional toll of service far from home.

Documents from the Cook Companies stationed at Pontanezen list two ranks: Cooks and Privates. Thomas is consistently listed as a Private, suggesting he was not directly involved in food preparation. Historical accounts indicate that Cook Company personnel were also responsible for the transportation and distribution of rations, supporting both kitchen staff and frontline troops. It is therefore likely that Thomas's duties involved logistical support, particularly the movement and delivery of food supplies.

Gibbs, Thomas 1557886
(Surname.) (Christian name.) (Army serial number.)
Pvt 1/c. Co. Cook Co. No. 1, A.S.C.
(Grade.) (Company and regiment or arm or corps or department.)
REPORT OF CHANGE—For the twenty-four hours
ending at midnight August 3rd, 1919
Transfd fr Cook Co. #3, ASC, Par. 26, S.O. 206,
Hq. Camp Pontanezen, B.S. 5, SOS. 8/1/19.
Cook Co. No. 1, ASC. Camp Pontanezen, APO 716.
(Organization or headquarters and place from which rendered.)
No. 17. *J. J. Gosline*
1st Lt., Inf., Commanding.
Responsible Officer

Keystone View Company

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Manufacturers



W216
★★

Meadville, Pa., New York, N. Y.,
Chicago, Ill., London, England.

19195—Troop Kitchen—21 Ranges Each Burning Cord of
Wood Daily—Brest, France.

19195

U. S. TROOP KITCHEN AT BREST

This is a real kitchen; under a roof, first class cooking ranges of the best type, complete equipment of utensils, tables with white, clean oilcloth covers, electric lights, ample space—an instance of the way Uncle Sam took care of his army, the best fed army on earth. And a fighting man deserves to be well fed. Our boys in France were kept on the jump, what with drilling, maneuvering and fighting. They used up a lot of energy and needed plenty of good food to build up more. They were always ready for mess call—often one saw them lined up half an hour in advance, mess kit in hand.

This kitchen is at Brest, the great embarkation port on the northwest coast of France. It was only at permanent camps like this, and like those in the S. O. S. (Service of Sup-

plies), and at permanent training quarters that completely equipped and commodious kitchens like this could be established. At such places food was abundant, well cooked, appetizing, and of excellent quality. At the front the commissary department was operated under every handicap. It was lucky to have tents, supplies often failed to arrive and the men had to subsist on canned beef, salmon and hardtack. Within the range of fire even coffee often could not be made, the smoke from the fires drawing shells from the enemy batteries. Often the field kitchens were up and in the midst of their preparations when a shell would snuff one out and compel the hasty abandonment of others.

Copyright by The Keystone View Company

LC

This stereoview depicts a permanent U.S. Army troop kitchen at Brest, one of the principal American ports of embarkation during World War I. Such kitchens represented the ideal of military care—organized, well-equipped, and capable of feeding thousands of men engaged in constant drilling and preparation for combat. While scenes like this projected efficiency and abundance, they contrast sharply with the harsher realities many soldiers faced closer to the front, where exposure to shelling, gas, and unstable conditions were common. Tom Gibbs served within this vast logistical system, a war defined as much by endurance and environment as by combat itself.

A.G. 201 Gibbs, Thomas
(8-24-32)WW

MOE

September 1, 1932.

Honorable Claude V. Parsons,
Representative in Congress,
Galconda, Illinois.

My dear Mr. Parsons:

I have your letter of recent date requesting the military and medical record of Thomas Gibbs, of Harrisburg, Illinois.

The records of this office show that Thomas Gibbs, Army serial number 1,557,886, formerly a Private 1st Class, Cook Company No. 1, Army Service Corps, was inducted May 27, 1918, at Harrisburg, Illinois; served overseas from October 2, 1918 to September 26, 1919, and was honorably discharged October 1, 1919, at Camp Dix, New Jersey.

The records further show that this former soldier was reported sick within the period of his military service on March 3, 12 to 15, and March 22, 1919, diagnosis not stated. The record of his physical examination at place of mobilization shows no defects and no disability was noted at the time of his separation from service.

Very respectfully,

Brigadier General,
Acting The Adjutant General.

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten signature]
9/1/32

On August 4, 1919, Thomas was transferred to Cook Company No. 1, Army Service Corps, and on September 10, 1919, he was reassigned to Cook Company No. 2, continuing to serve in the essential role of sustaining troops during demobilization. He was discharged on September 20, 1919, at Hoboken, New Jersey, returning home with memories and wounds—both physical and psychological—that never fully healed.

Despite Thomas's declining health following his wartime gas exposure, he and Gertie built a large family, raising thirteen children between 1918 and 1939: William Clarence, James Matthew, Leonard Waldo, Willis Loy, John Willard, Myrtle, Iva Mae, George Lincoln, Junior, Robert Gene, Challis Monroe, Earl Wayne, and William "Billy." Gertie also helped raise her grandson, Mark Gibbs, the son of her daughter Iva Mae.

1-5-52
Camp Beale

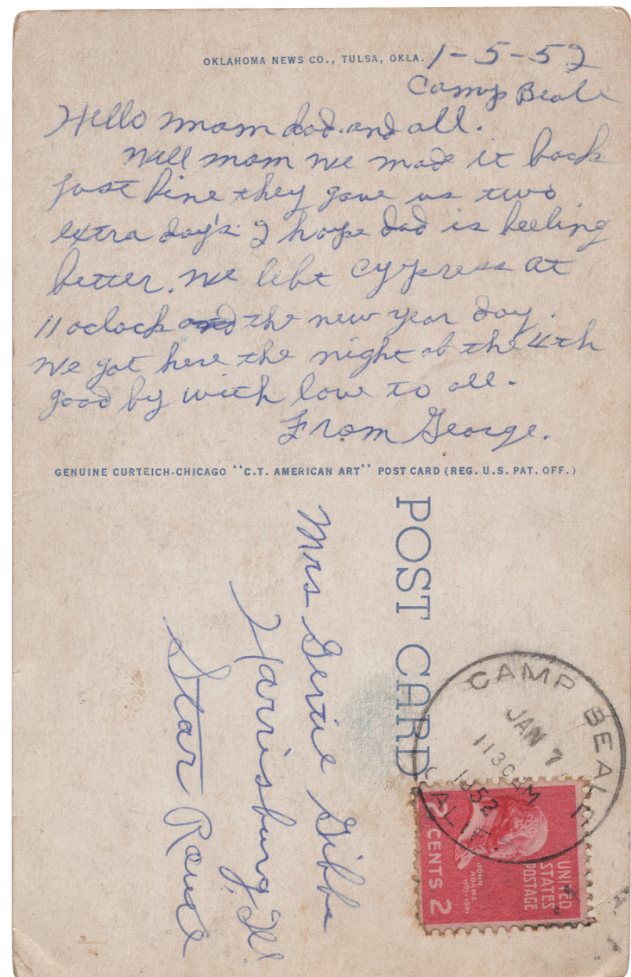
Hello mom dad and all.

Well mom we made it back just fine; they gave us two extra days. I hope dad is feeling better. We left Cypress at 11 o'clock the new year day. We got here the night of the 4th. good by with love to all.

From George

Raising such a family during the Great Depression required extraordinary resilience. Farming supplied much of the family's food, while coal mining provided wages, though often at great risk and instability. Gertie served as the anchor of the household, sustaining the family through scarcity, illness, and loss.

One of the family's greatest tragedies occurred in 1944, when their son John Willard Gibbs died suddenly of a stroke after visiting his uncle, Harve Gibbs, on Christmas Eve. Still a young man, John's death devastated the family. He was buried at Lockwood Cemetery in Rudement, Illinois. When Thomas died in 1957, and later when Gertie passed in 1977, both were laid to rest beside John, their adjoining graves reflecting the enduring strength of family bonds.



1952 Postcard from George to his parents, Tom and Gertie, reflecting ongoing concern for Tom's health and serving as contemporaneous documentation of the chronic illness Tom endured more than three decades after his wartime service.



G I B B S THOMAS 1 557 886
 PFC ASC COOK CO 2
 AGAMEMNON SEPT. 26, 1919 CP MERRITT

Gibbs, Thomas (Surname)	1557886 (Number)	S. A.	RANK	ALL OR STAFF CORPS	DIVISION	REGIMENT	COMPANY
Route # 3. (Home Street Address)		S. A.	pvt	Infantry	38	149	I
Harrisburg (City)	Illinois (State)	N. G.				1st	
Girtie Gibbs (Notify in Emergency)	Wife (Relationship)	O. R. C.				163	
Route #3. (Street Address)	Harrisburg (City)	Illinois (State)				13	
(Date of Commission)	May 27th, 1918. (Date of Enlistment)						
### Harrisburg, Ill. (Place of Enlistment)	August 11th, 1895. (Date of Birth)						
Occupation: farmer.							No. of Card
STATION	DATE	Photograph, Diagram, or Description of Place of Burial					
*RECORD OF TRANSFERS AND CHANGES							
To U S Agamemnon							
R 3 5 9 17 19							
COOK Co 2 asc							

Let Priv Cook Co 2 330 400 313 17/18
ROSTERED 12 31 18
For 23 74. B. D. 10 4/11

1. PLACE OF BIRTH
Township or Road District
Inc. Town or Village or
City of Mitchellville Registration District No. Thos. - Gibbs Primary District No. FOR GENEALOGICAL PURPOSES ONLY Registered No. St. Ward

2. FULL NAME OF CHILD Thos. - Gibbs { If child is not yet named, make supplemental report, as directed

3. SEX OF CHILD male 4. TWIN, TRIPLET, OR OTHER? None Number in order of birth 1 (To be answered only in event of plural births) 5. DATE OF BIRTH July 17 1920 (Month) (Day) (Year)

6. FULL NAME Thomas Gibbs 12. FULL MAIDEN NAME Mary Gertrude Mattingly FATHER MOTHER

7. RESIDENCE Mitchellville 13. RESIDENCE Mitchellville

8. COLOR white 9. AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY 35 Years 14. COLOR white 15. AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY 21 Years

10. BIRTHPLACE (State or Country) Illinois 16. BIRTHPLACE (State or Country) Ill.

11. OCCUPATION mining 17. OCCUPATION House Keeping

18. Number of children born to this mother, including present birth 2 19. Number of children of this mother now living 1

20. CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE.*
I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was born alive at 5:30 P.M., on the date above stated.
*When there was no attending physician or midwife, then the father, mother, householder, etc., shall make this return. See Sec. 12 of vital statistics law. 21. (Signature) G. B. Hart (Physician or Midwife) M. D. MIDWIFE

22. GIVEN NAME ADDED FROM A SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT 19 Address Mitchellville Ill. TELEPHONE None

23. FILED Sept. 9 1920 B. M. Gilbert REGISTRAR
Address of Registrar None

Filed for Record this 11 day of Nov 1920, H. E. Wells

On the birth records of James Matthew in 1920 (shown above, though the name listed is Thomas) and Leonard in 1921 (shown below), Tom Gibbs's occupation is recorded as farming and mining. These entries represent the only two known records that explicitly document Thomas's employment in the mining industry.

376 STATE OF ILLINOIS - STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH - DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS
COUNTY OF Saline CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH
REGISTERED PRINTING CO., DANVILLE, ILL.

1. PLACE OF BIRTH
Township or Road District
Inc. Town or Village or
City of Leonard Gibbs Registration District No. FOR GENEALOGICAL PURPOSES ONLY Primary District No. St. Ward Registered No. St. Ward

2. FULL NAME OF CHILD Leonard Gibbs { If child is not yet named, make supplemental report, as directed

3. SEX OF CHILD male 4. TWIN, TRIPLET, OR OTHER? None Number in order of birth 1 (To be answered only in event of plural births) 5. DATE OF BIRTH July 13 1921 (Month) (Day) (Year)

6. FULL NAME Thomas Gibbs 12. FULL MAIDEN NAME Mary Gertrude Mattingly FATHER MOTHER

7. RESIDENCE Mitchellville 13. RESIDENCE Mitchellville

8. COLOR white 9. AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY 34 Years 14. COLOR white 15. AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY 22 Years

10. BIRTHPLACE (State or Country) Illinois 16. BIRTHPLACE (State or Country) Illinois

11. OCCUPATION Farming & Mining 17. OCCUPATION House Keeping

18. Number of children born to this mother, including present birth 2 19. Number of children of this mother now living 1

20. CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE.*
I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was born alive at 2 P.M., on the date above stated.
*When there was no attending physician or midwife, then the father, mother, householder, etc., shall make this return. See Sec. 12 of vital statistics law. 21. (Signature) P. B. Stant (Physician or Midwife) M. D. MIDWIFE

22. GIVEN NAME ADDED FROM A SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT 19 Address Mitchellville TELEPHONE None

23. FILED April 17 1922 J. B. Barger REGISTRAR
Address of Registrar None

Filed for Record this 8 day of May 1922



Tom Gibbs
b. Aug 11, 1889
d. Nov 11, 1957



Gertie Mattingly
b. Oct 20, 1897
d. Nov 1, 1977



W. Clarence Gibbs
b. Apr 28, 1918
d. Jan 30, 2009
m. Earnestine Nicks



J. Matthew Gibbs
b. Jul 17, 1920
d. Jun 17, 1995
m. Willie Stricklin



Leonard W. Gibbs
b. Jul 13, 1921
d. Feb 25, 2018
m. Doris Hughes



Willis L. Gibbs
b. Dec 28, 1922
d. Nov 22, 2012
m. Lavada Grandstaff
& Helen Marie Dunn



John W. Gibbs
b. Nov 11, 1923
d. Dec 27, 1944



Myrtle Gibbs
b. Dec 29, 1925
d. Mar 7, 2016
m. Clarence L. Wrenn



Iva May Gibbs
b. Aug 31, 1927
d. Jul 6, 2000
m. J.W. Meadows



George L. Gibbs
b. Jan 24, 1929
d. May 10, 2008
m. Barbara J. Cook



Junior H. Gibbs
b. Apr 2, 1930
d. Jan 27, 2015
m. Jo Anne Bush



Robert G. Gibbs
b. May 9, 1933
d. Sep 24, 2019
m. Margaret McNamara



Challis M. Gibbs
b. Sep 15, 1934
d. May 28, 1988
m. Mary Rhea



Earl W. Gibbs
b. Aug 16, 1937
d. Jun 4, 2023
m. Bernice Johnson



William "Billy" Gibbs
b. May 15, 1939
d.
m. Patricia Reid



Mark T. Gibbs *
b. Oct, 1943
d. Nov 4, 2021
m. Patricia Thomas

* Mark was the son of Iva May, but was often considered a sibling as he was partially raised by Gertie Gibbs

Family Dinner Honors Soldier on Leave

A family dinner was held Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Newt Williams, Liberty, in honor of their son, Pvt. Howard Williams, who has just completed his basic training at Camp Blanding, Fla. Those present were his wife, Mrs. Denia Williams, and sons, Ronald Dean and Gordon, who are living with his parents.

The Rev. and Mrs. Will Fulgham, grandparents of Pvt. Williams, their daughter, Mrs. Eunice Dunn, his mother-in-law, Mrs. Lula Stricklin, and son, Walter Stricklin, Harold Dee Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Gibbs and children, Terry Wayne and Lindell Ray, were also present.

Pvt. Williams is en route to Fort George Meade, Md.

**Harrisburg Daily Register
Harrisburg, Il Dec 6, 1944, Page 6**

The relationship between the Gibbs and Williams families endured for at least three more generations following the marriage of Green Gibbs to Permelia Williams. Contemporary newspaper accounts indicate that the children of Tom and Gertie Gibbs regularly attended family gatherings and events hosted by the Williams family, reflecting the continued closeness of the two families over time.

Birthay Party For Pontiac, Mich., For Harrisburg Child

In honor of Carmen Lucille Williams, daughter of Mrs. Myrta Williams, an elaborate dinner party was held on July 22, at the home of Mrs. Helen Younger on Princeton Ave., in Pontiac, Mich. Mrs. Williams and Carmen, who reside in Harrisburg, will return to this city, and Mrs. Williams, the former Myrta Knight, will resume her teaching position this fall.

Guests at the party were former Saline county residents. The tiny guest of honor held the knife while her mother cut the cake, which was served with fruit salad and ice cream.

The following were present: Mr. and Mrs. James Williams, paternal grandparents of Carmen, Mr. and Mrs. Webb Mattingly and son, Larry, Mrs. Helen Younger and son, Valgene, Willis Gibbs, Virgil Granstaff, Miss Mary Knight, Mrs. Myrta Williams and daughter, Carmen. Carmen's father, Wilburn H. Williams, S. 1-c, who is in the Navy was in the Philippines when mail was received from him recently.

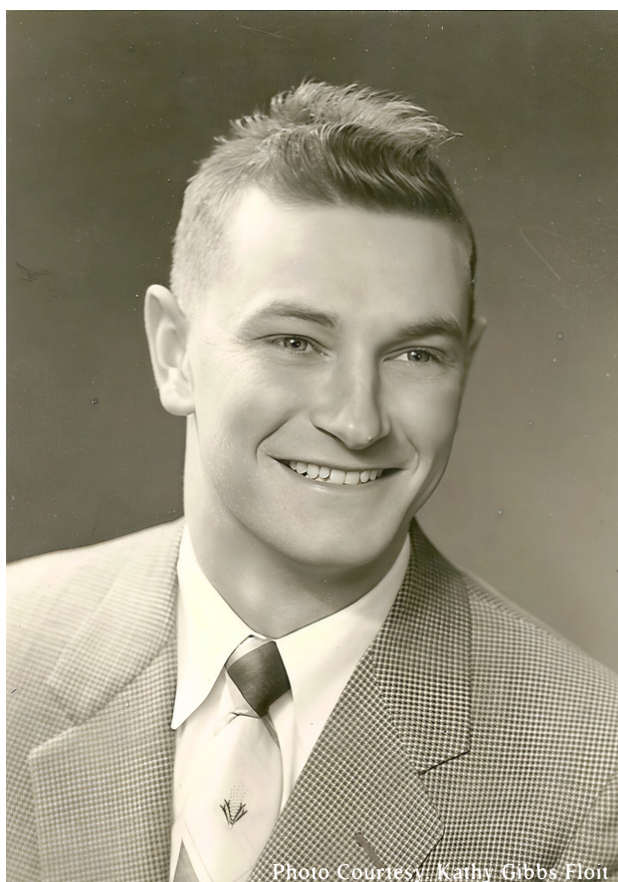
**Harrisburg Daily Register
Harrisburg, Il Jul 26, 1945, Page 6**



William Clarence Gibbs



Willis Loy Gibbs



Robert Gene Gibbs



Challis Monroe Gibbs (left)
with Unknown



W. Clarence Gibbs (left) with Unknown



W. Clarence Gibbs (left) with Unknown



Photo Courtesy: Kathy Gibbs Floit

Robert Gene Gibbs and Arnold Apfelbeck Germany September 1954

Separated from Armed forces

SERIAL NUMBER 2709	1. NAME (Print) William Clarence Gibbs (First) (Middle) (Last)	ORDER NUMBER 1149
2. ADDRESS (Print) 3130 Dixie Hwy. Route 7 Pontiac Oakland Michigan (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)		
3. TELEPHONE —	4. AGE IN YEARS 22 DATE OF BIRTH Apr. 28 1918 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	5. PLACE OF BIRTH Harrisburg (Town or county) Illinois (State or country)
6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP United States		7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mr. Webb D Mattingley (Mr., Mrs., Miss) (First) (Middle) (Last)
8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON Uncle		9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 3130 Dixie Hwy. Route 7 Pontiac Oakland Michigan (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME Frank Slater		
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 96 East Huron Pontiac Oakland Michigan (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. Form 1 (over) 16-17105 William Clarence Gibbs (Registrant's signature)		

These World War II draft registration cards document the enrollment of William Clarence Gibbs, Willis Loy Gibbs, Leonard Waldo Gibbs (left) and John Willard Gibbs (right page) in the national Selective Service system during the early 1940s. Created as part of the United States' mobilization for the war effort, draft cards recorded essential personal details including age, occupation, physical description, residence, and next of kin. For the Gibbs family, these records offer a snapshot of four men of the same generation standing at the threshold of wartime service, each formally registered and accounted for as the nation prepared for global conflict.

Beyond their military significance, the cards provide valuable genealogical information, preserving signatures, addresses, and occupations that help place the brothers within their community and family network at a specific moment in history. Together, these documents reflect the shared experience of millions of American men whose lives were touched by the wartime draft, while also highlighting the role of the Gibbs family in the broader national story of World War II.

Discharged

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924)		
SERIAL NUMBER N 49	1. NAME (Print) Willis Loy Gibbs (First) (Middle) (Last)	ORDER NUMBER 10488
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) Star Route Harrisburg Pope Ill. (Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)		
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]		
3. MAILING ADDRESS Star Route Harrisburg Pope Ill. (Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)		
4. TELEPHONE	5. AGE IN YEARS 19 DATE OF BIRTH Dec. 22 1922 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Mantelville Ill. (Town or county) (State or country)
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Thomas Gibbs Star Route Harrisburg Ill.		
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS unemployed		
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS unemployed		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 6-1-42) (over) c16-21630-3 Willis Loy Gibbs (Registrant's signature)		

Discharged

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after February 17, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921)		
SERIAL NUMBER T 65	1. NAME (Print) Leonard Waldo Gibbs (First) (Middle) (Last)	ORDER NUMBER T 10195
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) Star Route Harrisburg Saline Illinois (Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)		
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]		
3. MAILING ADDRESS same (Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)		
4. TELEPHONE	5. AGE IN YEARS 20 DATE OF BIRTH July 13 1921 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Pearson, Illinois (Town or county) (State or country)
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Tom Gibbs, father, same as above.		
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Unemployed.		
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 1-1-42) (over) ☆ GPO 16-21630-2 Leonard Waldo Gibbs (Registrant's signature)		

Leonard W. Gibbs, S 1/c, USNR, son of Thomas Gibbs, Harrisburg, left Guam Jan. 20th, on the USS Menard, an attack transport, scheduled to arrive in Seattle about Feb. 5.

The Daily Register
Harrisburg, Illinois • Sat, Feb 2, 1946

FORT POLK, La.—Pvt. Bill Gibbs of Harrisburg, Ill., son of Mrs. Gertie Gibbs of DeKalb, is taking basic training in the U. S. Army at Fort Polk, La.

The 24 year old soldier is in the 2nd Training Regiment, Company K. He has been in the army four weeks.

Before he entered service, Gibbs lived in DeKalb for several years.

The Daily Chronicle
De Kalb, Illinois • Sat, May 4, 1963

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924)

SERIAL NUMBER	1. NAME (Print)	ORDER NUMBER
N 101	JOHN WILLARD GIBBS	10540
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print)		
STAR ROUTE HARRISBURG POPE ILL.		
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]		
3. MAILING ADDRESS		
STAR ROUTE HARRISBURG ILLINOIS		
4. TELEPHONE	5. AGE IN YEARS	6. PLACE OF BIRTH
NONE	18	SALINE
	DATE OF BIRTH	(Town or county)
	NOV. 11 1923	ILLINOIS
	(Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	(State or country)
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS		
THOMAS GIBBS STAR ROUTE HARRISBURG, ILL.		
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS		
YELLOW CAB PONTIAC MICHIGAN		
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS		
YELLOW CAB PONTIAC OAKLAND MICH.		
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 6-1-42)	(over)	016-21630-3
		John W. Gibbs (Registrant's signature)

Pvt. Lyman E. Edmondson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Edmondson, Carrier Mills, and Pvt. Robert G. Gibbs, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Gibbs, Star route, Harrisburg, recently arrived in Germany for duty with the 28th Infantry division. The 28th division is undergoing intensive training as part of the NATO army on guard in Western Europe. They entered the army last May and completed basic training at Camp Chaffee, Ark.

The Daily Register
Harrisburg, Illinois • Thu, Dec 3, 1953

**OUR MEN
IN
SERVICE**

Cpl. Junior H. Gibbs, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gibbs, Star Route, Harrisburg, is serving with the 3rd Infantry division in Korea. Cpl. Gibbs, a tank driver in the 6th Tank battalion, entered the Army in December 1952 and arrived overseas last July from Fort Knox, Ky.

The Daily Register
Harrisburg, Illinois • Thu, Apr 22, 1954



Challis Gibbs on left, others unknown



W. Clarence Gibbs (right), others unknown



Willis Loy Gibbs (Left) with Unknown



W. Clarence Gibbs (center)



Unknown & William Clarence Gibbs



Leonard Gibbs



Leonard Gibbs



Challis Gibbs & Unknown



William Clarence Gibbs



George Lincoln Gibbs



Leonard Waldo Gibbs



Leonard W. Gibbs on right



Photo Courtesy: Judy Gibbs Rourke

J. Matthew Gibbs & George L. Gibbs



William Clarence Gibbs on far right



It is generally my view that historic photographs should be preserved as faithfully as possible to their original form. In this particular instance, however, the use of AI-assisted colorization enhances clarity and visual definition, bringing added depth to what is one of only three known photographs of Tom Gibbs.

Front Row: Mark Gibbs

Middle Row: Tom Gibbs, Gertie Mattingly Gibbs, Iva Gibbs Meadows, Myrtle Gibbs Wren

Back Row: Billy and Earl Gibbs - Circa 1950



Photo Courtesy: Edna Meadows Butler



Willis Loy Gibbs

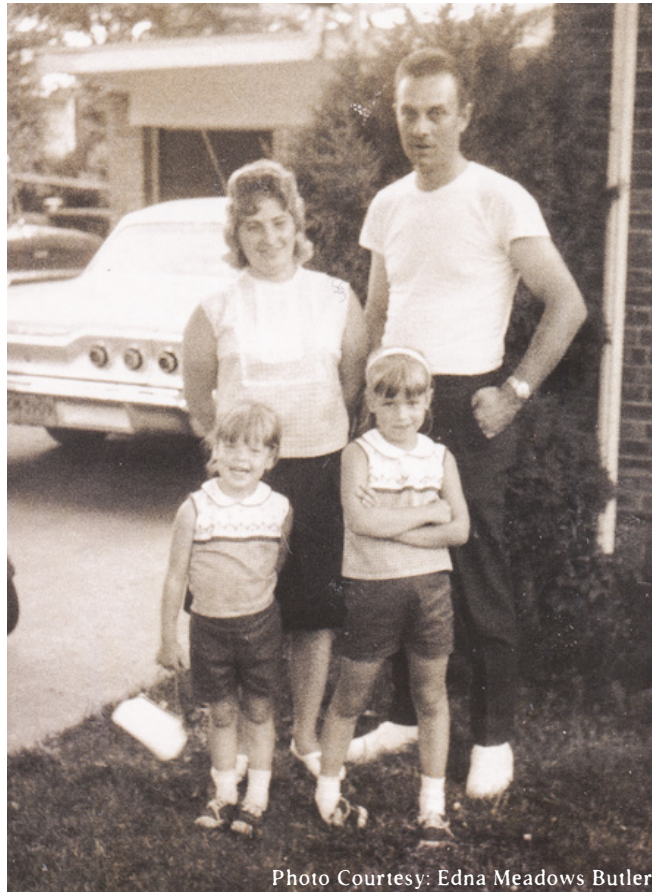


Photo Courtesy: Edna Meadows Butler

**Patricia Reid, Billy Gibbs
Lori Voegler Frey,
Brenda Voegler Politsch**



Photo Courtesy: Judy Gibbs Rourke

**Tom, Gertie, Willis & 1st wife Lavada, Willie and husband Matthew Gibbs
Child unknown**

Tragedy weighed heavily on Thomas in his later years. On November 11, 1957—Armistice Day, weakened by years of illness attributed to gas exposure and confined to his bed, he ended his life with a shotgun in the kitchen of his home. That his death occurred on the anniversary of the war that had so profoundly shaped him stands as a stark reminder of its lasting toll.

Oral family history consistently recalls that Thomas was never the same after the war. Exposure to chemical weapons such as mustard gas, chlorine, and phosgene often resulted in chronic respiratory disease, skin disorders, and psychological trauma. The devastating impact of gas warfare contributed to its eventual international condemnation and prohibition under the 1925 Geneva Protocol, leaving a lasting legacy on military policy—and on the lives of men like Thomas Wayne Gibbs, whose suffering extended long after the war had ended.



Photo Courtesy: Kathy Gibbs Flott

Robert Gene Gibbs visiting
Tom & Gertie's gravesite, Rudement Illinois 2015

Tom Gibbs Dies At Farm Home

Tom Gibbs died at his farm home, RFD 3, Harrisburg, at 9:30 a. m. Monday. He is survived by his wife, Gertie, and the following children: Matthew Gibbs, Harrisburg, Clarence Gibbs, Leonard Gibbs, Willis Gibbs, Mrs. Myrtle Wren, and Mrs. Ivy Meadows, Pontiac, Mich., George Gibbs, Robert Gibbs and Earl Gibbs, DeKalb, Junior Gibbs, Chicago, Chellis Gibbs, serving with the U. S. Armed services in Georgia, and Billy Gibbs in the home. Mark Twain Gibbs, a grandson, lives in the family home and Mr. Gibbs' brother, Harve Gibbs, lives at Muddy.

The body is in the care of the Gibbons funeral home and funeral plans await the arrival of the arrival of the children.

The Daily Register

Harrisburg, Illinois • Tue, Nov 12, 1957

Funeral Services Held for Tom Gibbs

The funeral of Tom Gibbs, who died Monday, was held at 2 p. m. today in the Gibbons funeral chapel. Rev. Clarence Tison officiated and burial was in the Lockwood cemetery near Rudement.

Mr. Gibbs was a veteran of World War I and full military rites were observed. The George Hart Post of the American Legion was in charge.

The Daily Register

Harrisburg, Illinois • Thu, Nov 14, 1957

ORIGINAL

STATE OF ILLINOIS

STATE FILE
NUMBER

53433

DECEDENT'S BIRTH NO.		CORONER'S CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		REGISTRATION DISTRICT NO. 76-0		REGISTERED NUMBER 63	
1. PLACE OF DEATH a. COUNTY <u>Pope</u> COUNTY, ILLINOIS		2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived. If institution, residence before admission.) a. STATE <u>Illinois</u> b. COUNTY <u>Pope</u>		3. DATE OF DEATH MONTH <u>11</u> DAY <u>11</u> YEAR <u>1957</u>		4. AGE (in years last birthday) <u>68</u> if under 1 year MONTHS <u>6</u> DAYS <u>8</u> if under 24 hrs. HOURS <u>11</u> MIN. <u>11</u>	
b. Death took place ☐ OUTSIDE city limits and in <u>Rd. Dist. #2</u> TOWNSHIP. ☐ INSIDE city limits and in the city, village, or town named at 1c.		c. Residence was ☐ OUTSIDE city limits and in <u>Rd. Dist. #2</u> TOWNSHIP. ☐ INSIDE city limits and in the city, village, or town named at 2d.		5. CITY, VILLAGE, OR TOWN <u>HARRISBURG</u>		6. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE AT 2c or 2d <u>21 1/2</u>	
d. LENGTH OF STAY IN 1b or 1c <u>2 1/4</u>		e. NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION (If not in hospital or institution, give street address) <u>Route # 3</u>		f. LENGTH OF STAY IN 1e <u>2 1/4</u>		g. Did decedent reside ON A FARM? YES ☒ NO ☐	
3. NAME OF DECEASED a. (FIRST) <u>Thomas</u> b. (MIDDLE) <u>Gibbs</u> c. (LAST) <u>Gibbs</u>		4. DATE OF DEATH MONTH <u>11</u> DAY <u>11</u> YEAR <u>1957</u>		5. SEX <u>Male</u> 6. RACE <u>Cau</u> 7. MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED (specify) <u>Married</u>		8. DATE OF BIRTH <u>8-11-1889</u> 9. AGE (in years last birthday) <u>68</u> if under 1 year MONTHS <u>6</u> DAYS <u>8</u> if under 24 hrs. HOURS <u>11</u> MIN. <u>11</u>	
10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired) <u>farmer</u>		10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY <u>Farm</u>		11. BIRTHPLACE (City and state or foreign country) <u>Illinois</u>		12. Citizen of what country? <u>USA</u>	
13. FATHER'S FULL NAME <u>Alec Gibbs</u>		14. MOTHER'S FULL MAIDEN NAME <u>Margaret Reynolds</u>		15. Was deceased ever in U.S. Armed Forces? (If yes, give war or dates of service) <u>Yes 1st World 6-27-1918-10-1-1919</u>		16. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER <u>NONE</u>	
17. INFORMANT a. SIGNATURE <u>Gertie Gibbs</u> b. ADDRESS <u>HARRISBURG</u> c. RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED <u>Widow</u>		18. MEDICAL CAUSE OF DEATH PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: [Enter only one cause per line for (A), (B), and (C).] IMMEDIATE CAUSE (A) <u>Suicide with 12 gauge single shot</u> CONDITIONS, if any, which gave rise to the above IMMEDIATE CAUSE (A), stating the UNDERLYING cause last. due to (B) <u>in kitchen of home</u> due to (C) <u>instant</u>		19. AUTOPSY? YES ☐ NO ☒		INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH	
PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO THE TERMINAL CONDITION GIVEN IN PART I (A).		20a. ACCIDENT (specify) <u>Suicide</u> 20b. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED (Specify NATURE of injury under MEDICAL CAUSE, item 18).		21a. Upon medical investigation I find this death was caused as stated above. DATE: <u>Nov. 20, 1957</u> SIGNED: <u>Jessie G. Wardrop</u> M. D. PHYSICIAN.		21b. Upon official investigation I find the person described died as stated above. DATE: <u>Nov. 20, 1957</u> SIGNED: <u>Jessie G. Wardrop</u> COUNTY CORONER.	
22. DISPOSITION: BURIAL-REMOVAL-CREMATION (DATE) <u>11-14-57</u> CEMETERY <u>St. Luke's</u> LOCATION <u>Walbridgeville</u>		23. FIRM NAME <u>GIBBS, FARRER, HARRIS</u> ADDRESS <u>HARRISBURG</u> SIGNATURE <u>Jessie G. Wardrop</u> LICENSE NUMBER <u>2162</u>		24. Received for filing on <u>Nov. 20, 1957</u> (Signed) <u>Jessie G. Wardrop</u> LOCAL REGISTRAR			

VS & R 202--BUREAU OF STATISTICS--ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH--SPRINGFIELD

OCT 19 2023



APR • 58 •

Tom Gibbs' Funeral
November 1957



APR • 58 •

(over) 3A Suspended 17 JAN 1957 ORIGINAL

1. NAME OF DECEASED—LAST—FIRST—MIDDLE (Print or type) GIBBS, Thomas		APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER (See attached instructions. Complete and submit original and duplicate)	
2. ENLISTMENT DATE (Month, Day, Year) 8-27-1918	3. DISCHARGE DATE (Month, Day, Year) 10-1-1919 How	12. ENLISTEN (Check one) ☒ CHRISTIAN (Lasts Cross) ☐ MEMBER (Star of David) ☐ NONE	13. CHECK TYPE REQUIRED ☐ UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE ☐ FLAT MARBLE MARKER ☐ FLAT GRANITE MARKER ☐ FLAT BRONZE MARKER
4. SERVICE NO. 1557886	5. PERSON OR VA CLAIM NO. 1 203 286	14. SHIP TO (Name and address of person who will transport stone or marker to cemetery) 203 - PARKER ST. Saline Monument Company, Harrisburg, Ill.	
6. STATE Illinois	7. GRADE PFC	15. FREIGHT STATION Harrisburg, Illinois	
8. BRANCH OF SERVICE, COMPANY, REGIMENT, AND DIVISION OR SHIP COOK CO NO 2, ASC		16. NAME AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY (City and State) Lockwood, Rudement, Illinois	
9. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year) 8-11-1889 1895	10. DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year) 11-11-1957	17. I CERTIFY THE APPLICANT FOR THIS STONE OR MARKER HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ME TO TRANSPORT SAME TO THE CEMETERY. SIGNATURE Be May DATE 11-19-1957	
DO NOT WRITE HERE			
RECEIVED NOV 27 1957		18. NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT (Print or type) Gertie Gibbs, R#3, Harrisburg, Illinois	
VERIFIED WY 7465530 FEB 3 1958		19. I certify this application is submitted for a stone or marker for the unmarked grave of a deceased member of former member of the Armed Forces of the United States, sailing of Union and Confederate Armies of the Civil War. I hereby agree to accept responsibility for properly placing the stone or marker at the grave at no expense to the Government. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT Gertie Gibbs DATE 11-19-1957	
DA FORM 1 AUG 56 1815 REPLACES OAINS FORM 641, 13 OCT 52 WHICH IS OBSOLETE		IMPORTANT—Reverse Side Must Be Completed	

Birth records in Illinois were not required until 1916 and it took years for all counties to comply. No birth record for Tom is likely to exist as on his death certificate it indicates he had no Social Security Number. Evidenced on the headstone application above there is some confusion over the official year of his birth. I believe 1889 to be most likely.

DOB 1891 not shown

20. I HEREBY CERTIFY that a Government-furnished _____ (Insert type of stone or marker shown in item 13) will be permitted at the grave and that necessary arrangements have been made for placement.

DEC 19 1957
JAN 28 1958
DEC 23 1957
JAN 29 1958
JAN 31 1958

To Process
To Order
To Transport
To Transfer

Cancel
Renewal
Replace
Reactivation

Signature and title of superintendent, cemetery, or other cemetery official
Ben Kridale

HEADSTONE WORKED
JAN 4 1958
REV 11

OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
MEMORIAL DIVISION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OK
Pfc 2 Cook Co ASC / WWI

NOV 21 1957
ILLINOIS
VETERANS COMMISSION



Thomas Gibbs Ruled Suicide

GOLCONDA, Ill., Nov. 13 (Special)—A Pope County coroner's jury Tuesday returned a verdict of "suicide while temporarily insane" in the death of Thomas Gibbs, 68.

Pope County Coroner Leslie B. Wardrop, who conducted the inquest, said Mr. Gibbs shot himself in the stomach with a shotgun at his farm home near Oak about 9:30 a.m. Tuesday.

The body was found by his wife and grandson soon after he had discharged the shotgun.

Mr. Gibbs, who was a gas victim of World War I, had been confined to his room by illness for some time. Mrs. Gibbs said she had been out of the room about three minutes when she heard the shotgun blast.

The body is at Gibbons Funeral Home at Harrisburg. Funeral arrangements have not been made.

THE PADUCAH SUN
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY · WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1957



Willis Loy Gibbs with 2nd wife Helen Marie Dunn circa 1965



Photo Courtesy: Kathy Gibbs Floit

Robert Gene Gibbs, 1951



Graduation party for Margaret McNamara at Bev & Sully's with James Hayes, Maggie Schultz, Bev Sullivan, Georgia Hayes, Barb Cook, George Gibbs, Daisy Weiser and Margaret McNamara. 3 June 1953

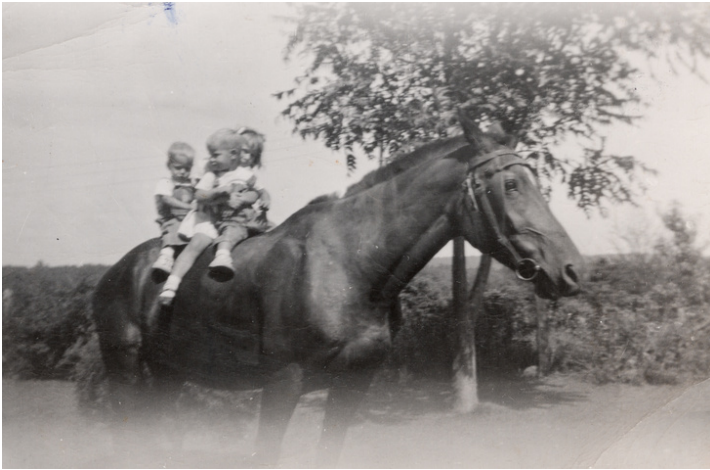


Robert Gene Gibbs
and Margaret McNamara



Willis Gibbs
Dressed for Halloween

(An incomplete gallery of)
The Grandchildren of Tom & Gertie Gibbs



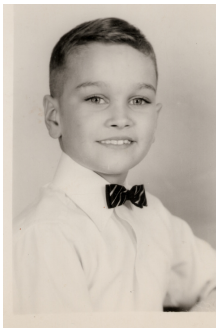
Children of Willis Gibbs



Juanita Gibbs
 Earl's Daughter



Mike Gibbs
 Junior's Son



Bobby J. Gibbs
 Leonard's Son



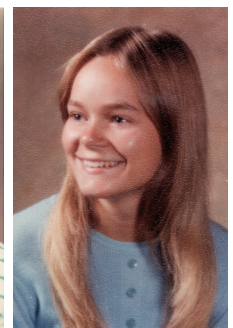
Edna Mae Meadows
 Iva Mae's Daughter



John Wayne Meadows
 Iva Mae's Son



Roger A. Gibbs
 George's Son



Marilyn Wren
 Myrtle's Daughter



202 **Left to Right: Brenda Voegler & Lori Vogeler,**
 Billy Gibbs' step daughters



Bobby & Linda Gibbs
 Leonard's children

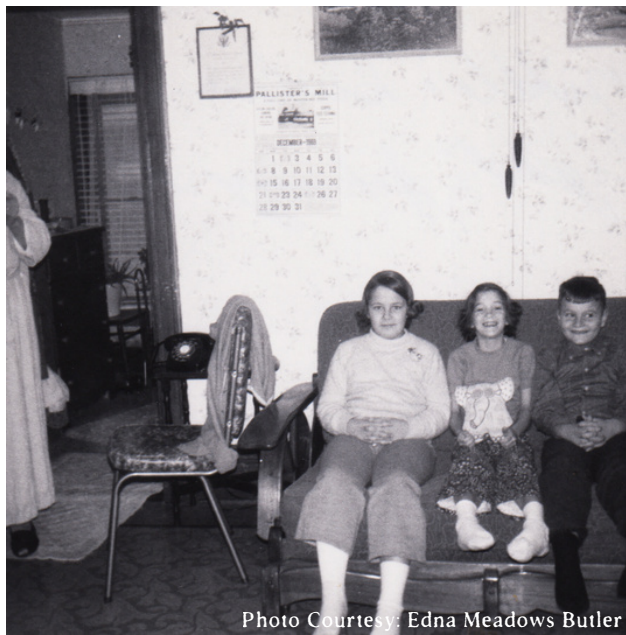


Photo Courtesy: Edna Meadows Butler

Kathy, Darlene & John Gibbs
Bob's children at Gertie's house



Photo Courtesy: Kathy Gibbs Floit

Kathy, Dianna and Darlene Gibbs
with their father, Bob Gibbs



Mary Wren
Myrtle's daughter



Mark Twain Gibbs
Iva Mae's son



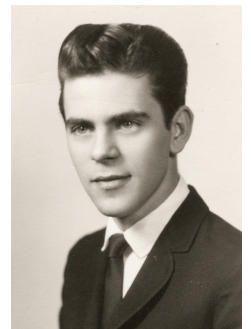
Judy Gibbs
George's Daughter



Terry Wayne Gibbs
Matthew's Son



Danny "Corky" Gibbs
Clarence's Son



George Wren
Myrtle's step son

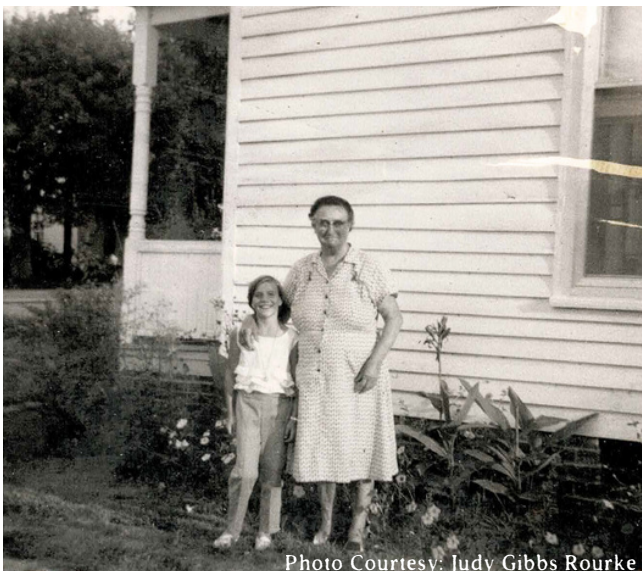


Photo Courtesy: Judy Gibbs Rourke

Judy Gibbs Rourke, George's daughter,
with Gertie Mattingly Gibbs



Lindell Gibbs
Matthew's Son



Photo Courtesy: Kathy Gibbs Floit

Ernestine & Clarence Gibbs



Photo Courtesy: Kathy Gibbs Floit

Junior & Joanne Gibbs



Photo Courtesy: Kathy Gibbs Floit

**Iva Mae Gibbs Meadows with husband
J. W. Meadows**



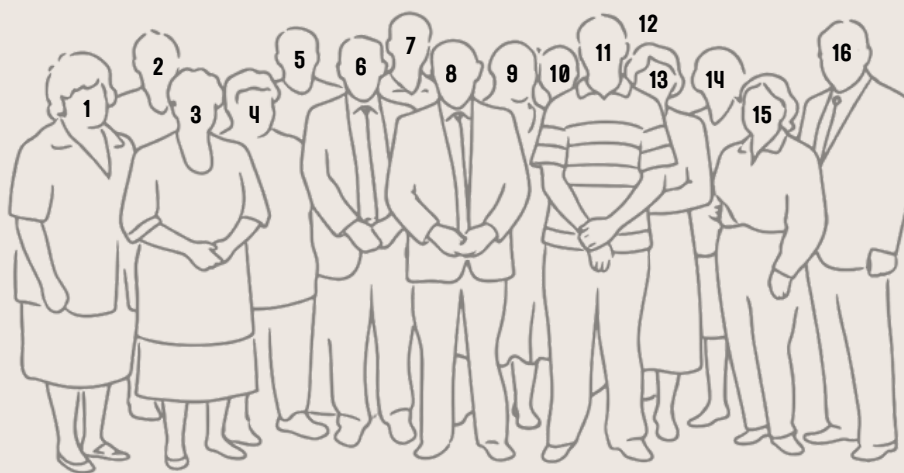
Photo Courtesy: Edna Meadows Butler

**204 Front Row: Junior Hubert Gibbs, Robert Gene Gibbs, Earl Wayne Gibbs, Billy Gibbs, Mark Gibbs
Back Row: George Lincoln Gibbs, Iva May Gibbs Meadows, Myrtle Gibbs Wren, Willis Loy Gibbs
Leonard W. Gibbs & William Clarence Gibbs**



Photo Courtesy: Edna Meadows Butler

Funeral for James Matthew Gibbs, June 1995



- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Doris Hughs | 8. Willis Gibbs | 14. Earnestine Nicks |
| 2. Mark Gibbs | 9. Helen Dunn | 15. Myrtle Gibbs |
| 3. Iva Mae Gibbs | 10. Leonard Gibbs | 16. Bob Gibbs |
| 4. Betty Gaul | 11. Junior Gibbs | |
| 5. Earl Gibbs | 12. William Clarence Gibbs | |
| 6. George Gibbs | 13. Margaret McNamara | |
| 7. Billy Gibbs | | |

James Gibbs

6/19/95

HARRISBURG, Ill. — James M. Gibbs, 74, died at 7:15 p.m. Saturday at Saline Care Center.

He was a coal miner.

Surviving are two sons, Terry Gibbs of Cedar Hill, Mo., and Lindle Gibbs of Bourbon, Mo.; two sisters, Myrtle Wren and Iva Meadows, both of Harrisburg; and eight brothers, Clarence, Leonard, Willis, George, Junior, Earl, Bill and Bob Gibbs, all of Harrisburg.

Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Sunset Gardens Cemetery.

Friends may call from 9 to 11 a.m. Tuesday at Gaskins Funeral Home.



John W. Gibbs, 21, Herod, Dies after Stroke of Paralysis

John W. Gibbs, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gibbs, Oak, died at 4:30 p. m. Wednesday at the Lightner hospital, to which he was taken Monday, when he became suddenly very ill at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Harve Gibbs at Raleigh.

He was there on a Christmas visit and was ready to start home, when he was seized with a powerful headache and said that he didn't feel like driving his automobile home. He sat down in a chair and in a little while fell forward on his hands and knees and became unconscious.

He was brought to the hospital where examinations proved that his blood pressure was very high and that he had had a stroke of paralysis.

Surviving are his parents, and two sisters, Myrtle and Ivy Gibbs at home, and 10 brothers, two of whom are in military service. Leonard, seaman 2-c, in the U. S. Navy, is stationed at Corpus Christi, Tex.; and Clarence, a technical sergeant in the Medical Corps of the U. S. Army is with the American forces in Belgium. The brothers at home are: Matthew, Willis, George, Junior, Bobbie, Challis, Earl and Billy.

His body lies in state at the Gibbons funeral home, awaiting arrangements which will not be completed until it is known whether his brother from the Navy may be able to attend.

Harrisburg Daily Register

Dec 28, 1944, Page 1

Harrisburg, Illinois, US

Challis M. Gibbs

Challis M. Gibbs, 53, of DeKalb, died Saturday, May 28, 1988, at his home.

He was born Sept. 15, 1934, in Harrisburg, Ill., the son of Thomas and Gertrude (Mattingly) Gibbs.

He married Mary S. Rhea on June 30, 1962, in DeKalb. He was a member of the Sycamore Baptist Church. He was a veteran of the United States Army serving in the Korean War. He was employed by the Norman Oil Company in DeKalb for 23 years and had been employed by the Spaulding Company in DeKalb for five years.

He is survived by his wife, Mary; nine brothers, Robert (Margaret), George (Betty), both of DeKalb; Bill (Pat) and Earl, both of Compton, Ill.; Leonard (Doris), Clarence (Earnestine) and Willis (Helen), all of Pontiac, Mich.; Junior (Joanne) and Matthew, both of Harrisburg, Ill.; two sisters, Iva (J.W.) Meadows, of Harrisburg, Ill.; and Myrtle Wren, of Pontiac, Mich.; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, John, and his grandparents.

Funeral services will be Tuesday, May 31, at 1:30 p.m. at the Anderson Funeral Home in DeKalb with the Rev. Robert L. Ross of the Victory Baptist Church officiating. Burial will be at the Fairview Park Cemetery.

Friends may call on Monday, May 30, from 6-9 p.m. at the Anderson Funeral Home in DeKalb.



Photo Courtesy: Edna Meadows Butler

Challis Monroe Gibbs



Fairview Cemetery
DeKalb, Illinois

The Daily Chronicle

De Kalb, Illinois • Sun, May 29, 1988

WREN, Myrtle; of Waterford formerly of Pontiac; March 7, 2016; age 90. Preceded in death by her husband Clarence; mother of Mary Wren, Tommy Wren, Norma Jean (the late George III) Reed, Marilyn (Tom) Meyers and Deborah (Dennis) Barnard; grandma of Elizabeth (Brian) Connor, Nicholas and Kelsey Meyers, Devon and Derek Barnard; great grandma of Reed and Henry Connor. Myrtle had 11 brothers and 1 sister. She enjoyed gardening and bonfires and was an avid Tiger's fan. Funeral Service Thursday 12:30 p.m. at Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston where friends may visit Wednesday 4 to 9 p.m. Interment Ottawa Park Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association.

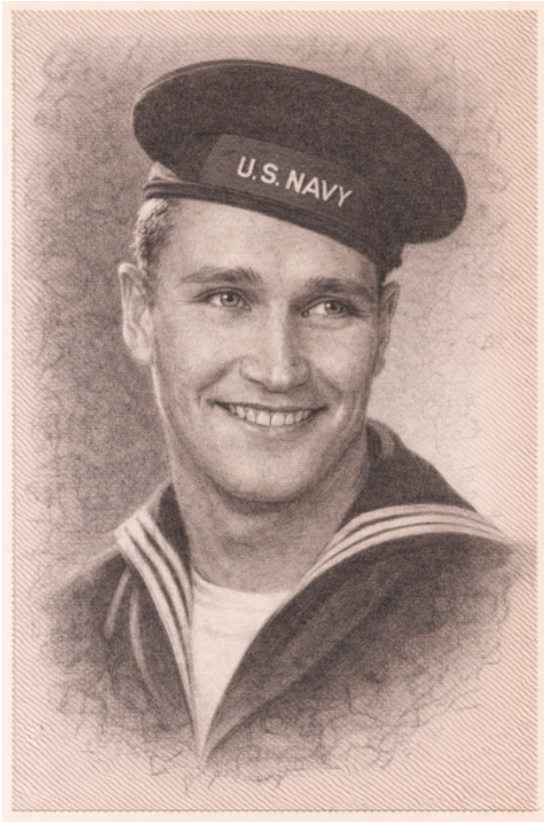


Mark Twain Gibbs



Photo Courtesy: Kathy Gibbs Flott

Willis, Earl, George, Junior, Bob, Billy and Leonard Gibbs



Leonard W. Gibbs, age 96, of Pontiac, passed away February 25, 2018. Beloved husband of the late Doris. Loving father of Bob (Barbara) and Linda (the late Ernie) Pyle. Proud grandfather of Scott (Kelly) Pyle, Jennifer (Douglas) Brendel and Rebekah. Treasured great-grandfather of Ryan, Amy and Sara. Dear brother of Billy, Earl, Bobby, all of Illinois and also Mark. Leonard was a charter member of the First Social Brethren Church, a WWII Navy Veteran and a retired employee from General Motors. The Gibbs family wants to express their thanks to McLaren Hospice for the wonderful care they gave to Leonard. Visitation will be held Wednesday, February 28, 2018 from 10:00am until the time of the Funeral Service at 12:00pm at the Highland Chapel of the Elton Black & Son Funeral Home, 3295 E. Highland Road, Highland. Reverend Bob Gibbs to officiate. Burial at Ottawa Park Cemetery, Clarkston.

Iva Meadows

Harrisburg - Iva May Meadows, 72, died Thursday, July 6, 2000 at Good Shepherd Nursing Home in Galatia.

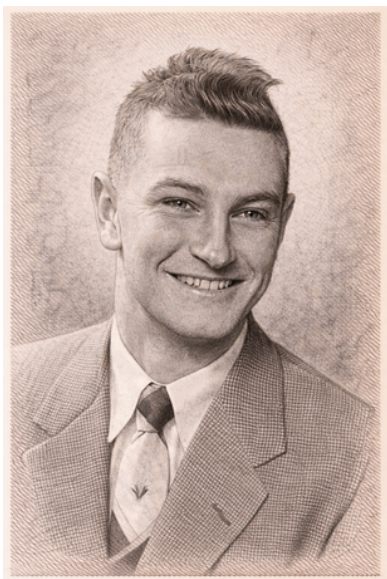
She was a member of Dorrisville Social Brethren.

Surviving are a daughter, Edna Butler of Galatia; a step-daughter, Ruby Rhodes of Fort Worth, Texas; two sons, Mark Gibbs of Highland Mich., and John Meadows of Harrisburg; a sister, Myrtle Wren of Waterford, Mich.; eight brothers, Clarence Gibbs of Draton Plains, Mich., Leonard Gibbs of Pontiac Mich., Willis Gibbs of Knoxville, Tenn., George and Bob Gibbs of DeKalb, J.R. Gibbs of Carrier Mills and Earl and Billy Gibbs of Compton; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Her husband, J.W., died in 1994.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Sunday at Gaskins Funeral Home with burial in Moore-Vinson Cemetery.





Robert Gene (Bob) Gibbs, 86, of DeKalb, passed away Tuesday, September 24, 2019 at Northwestern Kishwaukee Hospital in DeKalb.

He was born May 9, 1933 in Harrisburg IL, the son of Thomas Wayne and Mary Gertrude (Mattingly) Gibbs. Robert was united in marriage to Margaret Alice McNamara on July 30, 1955 in Sycamore and they spent 57 wonderful years together. From this marriage, they were blessed with one son, John, and three daughters, Dianna, Katherine and Darlene.

Robert was a graduate of Pope County School. He moved to DeKalb in 1950 and immediately started working for American Bulk Oil Company, later known as Norman Oil Company, and was employed by them for 24 years, being manager of the Sycamore Road location for 15 years.

While still working for Norman Oil, he also operated his own Dairy Transport Service from 1955 to 1959 transporting milk from the dairy farmer to the dairy. In 1974, he started working for the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority in toll collection and soon became supervisor of the DeKalb Plaza, retiring from there in November 1995, after 21 years of service.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict serving in Germany from 1953 to 1955. He was a member of the Loyal Order of Moose and the American Legion for many years.

Robert enjoyed the outdoors and was always taking care of his yard, riding his bike, taking long walks or working on something. He loved gardening and watching his tomatoes and flowers grow. He also liked to work on bicycles and lawn mowers or anything that needed repair. He also enjoyed traveling with his wife and spending the winter months in Florida after retirement.

He was a loving husband, father and grandfather who had much love for all his family. His grandchildren and great grandchildren brought him much joy.

He is survived by one son, John (Michele) Gibbs of Dallas GA; three daughters, Dianna Oakland of Titusville FL, Katherine (Jay) Floit of Sycamore IL and Darlene (Philip) Cosgrove of Sycamore IL; six grandchildren, Joshua (Megan) Gibbs of Woodstock GA, Jeremy Gibbs of Dallas GA, Rachel Oakland (Fred Schafer) of Titusville FL, Ryan Floit of Bloomington MN, Megan Oakland (Stephen Connors) of Titusville FL and Emma Floit (Mackenzie Browning) of Lincoln NE; three great grandchildren, Aubrey Gibbs of Dallas GA, Fredrick Schafer and Camryn Schafer of Titusville FL; two brothers, Billy (Pat) Gibbs and Earl Gibbs of Mendota IL; several nieces and nephews including Mark (Pat) Gibbs of Highland MI.

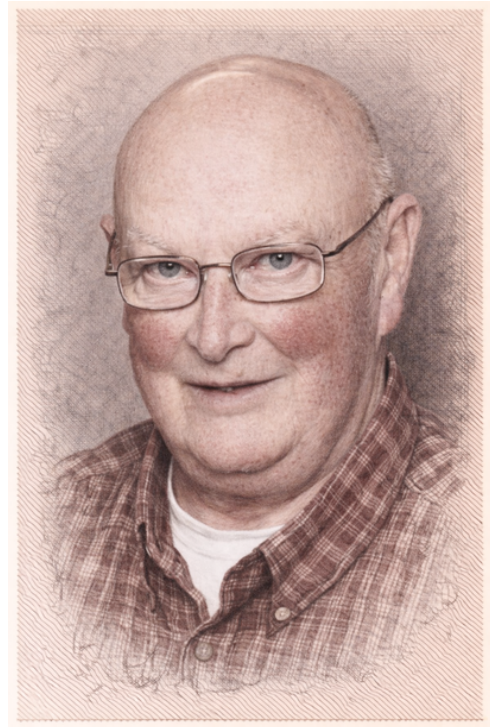
He was preceded in death by his wife in 2012; father in 1957; mother in 1977; eight brothers, John, Challis, Mathew, George, Clarence, Junior, Leonard and Willis; and two sisters, Iva Meadows and Myrtle Wren.



Earl W. Gibbs 85 of Mendota passed away on June 4, 2023 in his home surrounded by his family. Cremation rites have been accorded. There will be a celebration of Earls life Saturday, June 10 beginning at noon in the family home located at 702 Meriden St. in Mendota. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

Earl was born August 16, 1937 in Harrisburg, Illinois to Thomas and Gertrude (Mattingley) Gibbs. For 40 years he worked for the Swift Meat Packing plant as a meat cutter, retiring in 2002.

Earl is survived by his sons Thomas (Vicky) Gibbs, Jim Gibbs and Larry (Kim) Gibbs all of Ohio, daughter Juanita (Jim) Strange of West Virginia, 7 grandchildren, several great grandchildren, his brother and best friend Billy Gibbs of Mendota, and several nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a granddaughter, his parents, 2 sisters Iva Meadows and Myrtle Wren, and 9 brothers: Clarence, James, Matthew, George, Junior, Charles, Willis, John, Bob and Leonard. Memorials may be directed to the family.

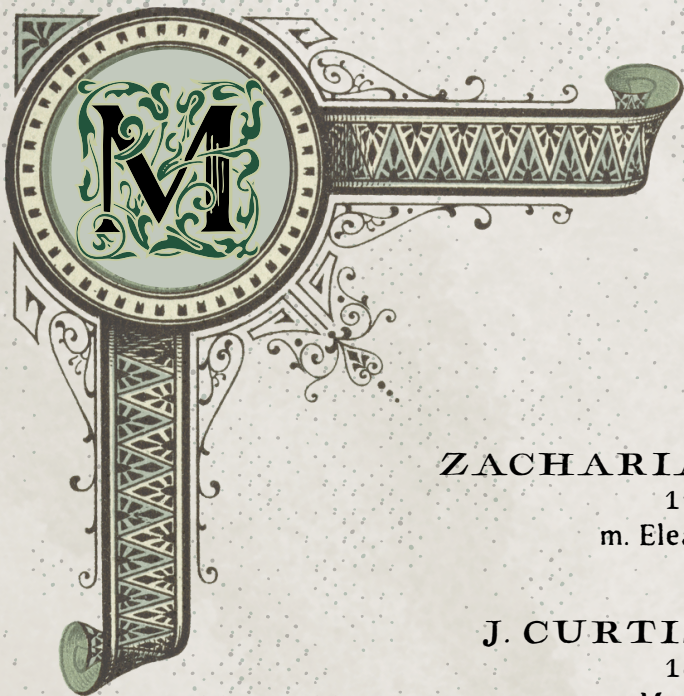


Mark Gibbs of Highland, passed away November 4, 2021 at 78 years of age.

Beloved husband of Patricia. Dear father of Gordon (Vickie) Breger, Debbie, Sharol Breger, Shannon Marentette, Mark (Heather) Gibbs, Jr. and the late David Gibbs. Proud grandfather of 14 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Brother of Edna Butler and John Meadows.

Mr. Gibbs was a US Navy Veteran. He enjoyed hunting, camping and baseball. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

Funeral Services will be held at 11:00am on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at the Highland Chapel of the Elton Black & Son Funeral Home, 3295 E. Highland Road. The family will receive friends on Monday, November 8, 2021 from 2:00pm until 8:00pm. Burial will take place at Highland Cemetery.



MATTINGLY

PATERNAL LINEAGE

ZACHARIAH MATTINGLY

1787 - 1847

m. Eleanor McCollough



J. CURTIS MATTINGLY

1825 - 1886

m. Mary Ellen Hickman



WILLIAM HENRY MATTINGLY

1864 - 1907

m. Effie Cummins



MARY GERTRUDE "GERTIE" MATTINGLY

1897 - 1977

m. Thomas "Tom" Gibbs



GEORGE LINCOLN GIBBS

1929 - 2008

m. Barbara Jean Cook



A decorative border surrounds the central text. It consists of four corner squares and four side rectangles. The corner squares feature a complex interlocking knot design in gold on a green background. The side rectangles feature a repeating floral and foliate pattern in gold on a green background. The entire border is framed by a thin gold line.

CHAPTER 6

GERTIE
MATTINGLY



Mary Gertrude “Gertie” Mattingly Gibbs

was born on 20 October 1897 in Illinois, the daughter of William Henry Mattingly and Effie Cummins. She spent her childhood in Saline County, growing up in the rural communities around Mountain and Harrisburg. Her early life was shaped by loss when her father died in 1907, leaving her mother to raise the family alone. From a young age, Gertie learned resilience and responsibility—traits that would define her adult life Mary Gertrude _Gertie_ Mattingly

On 1 September 1917, at nineteen years old, Gertie married **Thomas Wayne Gibbs**. Their marriage coincided with Tom’s service in World War I. He returned home permanently affected by poison gas exposure, and his health steadily declined over the decades that followed. As his condition worsened, the physical and emotional burden of maintaining the household increasingly fell on Gertie. Over the next twenty-two years, she gave birth to thirteen children and managed a large rural family through years marked by illness, economic hardship, and constant labor. Census records repeatedly place her at the center of this household during World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II Mary Gertrude _Gertie_ Mattingly

Gertie’s strength extended beyond raising her own children. She also helped raise her grandson **Mark Twain Gibbs**, the son of her daughter Iva Mae, reinforcing her role as a stabilizing presence across generations. Her granddaughter **Edna Meadows Butler** later described Gertie as quiet—a word that reflects both her reserved nature and the steady endurance with which she carried extraordinary responsibility.



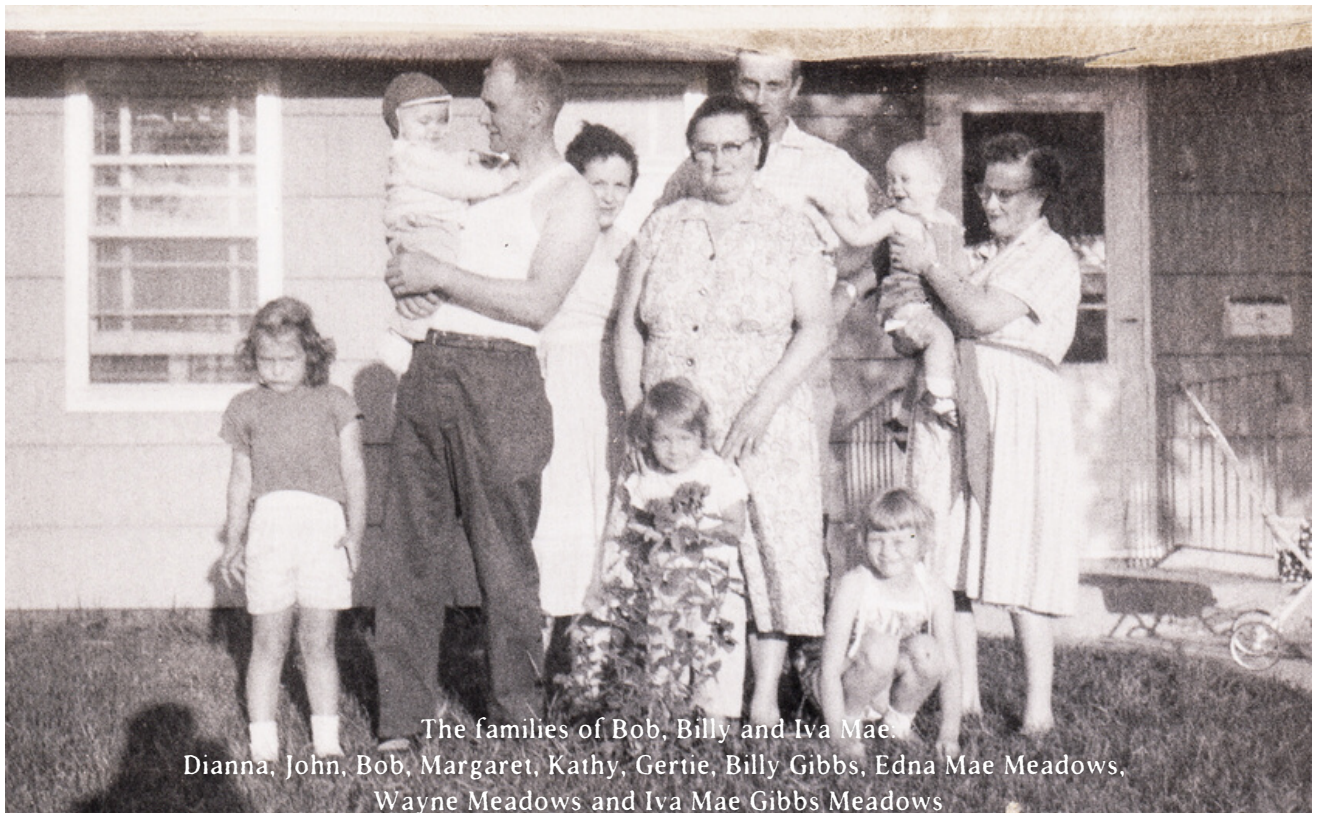
By the mid-1950s, Tom's condition had worsened to the point that he became bedridden. After years of suffering from the long-term effects of his wartime injuries, he took his own life in 1957. Gertie, widowed after nearly forty years of marriage, faced this loss after decades spent caring for an increasingly incapacitated husband while raising their children. The event marked the end of a long period of struggle and a profound turning point in her life.

In the 1970s, Gertie spent a short time living in DeKalb, Illinois, in a home purchased for her by her son Robert Gene Gibbs. At the time, her sons Robert, George, and Challis lived in DeKalb, while Earl and Billy lived nearby near Mendota, placing Gertie close to much of her family during her later years. She ultimately returned to Saline County, where she died on 1 November 1977 and was buried at Rudement Cemetery.

Gertie's legacy is one of quiet endurance. She bore the long consequences of war not on the battlefield, but at home—raising a large family, caring for a disabled husband, and holding multiple generations together through steadiness rather than spectacle. Her life reflects the unseen cost of war and the strength of the women who carried its weight long after the fighting ended



Tom Gibbs and
Gertie Mattingly Gibbs



The families of Bob, Billy and Iva Mae
Dianna, John, Bob, Margaret, Kathy, Gertie, Billy Gibbs, Edna Mae Meadows,
Wayne Meadows and Iva Mae Gibbs Meadows



W. H. Mattingly

b. Dec 14 1864
d. Apr 26 1907



Effie Cummins

b. Aug 5 1870
d. 12 Sep 1957



William G. Mattingly

b. Apr 22 1890
d. Jan 14 1891



Ida P. Mattingly

b. Dec 31 1891
d. Mar 17 1892



Effie A Mattingly

b. Mar 14 1893
d. Oct 14 1967
m. Frederick Younger



Lilly Blanche Mattingly

b. Dec 5 1895
d. Jul 21 1973
m. Roy Lane



Gertie Mattingly

b. Oct 20 1897
d. Nov 1 1977
m. Thomas Gibbs



H. Alice Mattingly

b. Sep 1 1902
d. Jan 26 1988
m. Harry Pickering



Webb D. Mattingly

b. Apr 29 1905
d. Dec 5 1974
m. Ruby Knight

THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED

TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY Mountain Township

NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE ...

412-2811

NAME OF INSTITUTION X

(Insert name of institution, if any, and indicate the lines on which the entries are made. See instructions.)

ENUMERATED

[illegible]

The 1925 Pageant of Progress Edition of The Harrisburg Daily Register included an article based on an interview with **Anthony A. Travelstead**, the granduncle of **Gertie Mattingly Gibbs**, born in 1839 in Kentucky, his father brought his family and 17 other families from Kentucky to Illinois in 1842.

“The colony of Kentuckians made their way to the Ohio River and crossed at Shawneetown on an old-fashioned ferry boat. Then the start through Illinois was made. It was nothing but a wilderness everywhere one looked, especially down in this section. But there was a trail or road leading from Shawneetown up toward Equality and over to this section. There was no post office in Harrisburg at that time. In fact, there wasn’t any town here, not even a settlement, and as the Kentucky Colony got on top of the hill, which is now court square in Harrisburg, there was not one house within four miles of this immediate locality, and that was a double log house owned and occupied by **Mathias Gaskins**, possibly the first man to enter this community. This house was located near what is O’Gara No. 3 mine now. What is now court square was a field about half cleared of the timber and Mr. Gaskins had a small crop of corn planted therein.



Autumn in Garden of the Gods Wilderness
Pope County, Illinois

The Travelstead family lived in this locality seven years and moved to Elizabethtown in 1848. The next year, 1849, the memorable cholera epidemic swept this county and in the school at Elizabethtown, thirty-six children died as a result of contracting the disease. None of the Travelstead family, however, were lost in that epidemic. They all had attacks of it, but of a milder form in the nature of cholera infantum.

Later, the family moved up near Rudement, in Mountain township (not far from where the Estes family lived), where he lived for fifty-five years, raising a family of fourteen children. Two and three acres of land was all that was ever cultivated by any one family and that was done just to raise enough corn for meal. No hogs were ever owned or fattened. When people wanted a hog killed, they went into the woods and shot a wild hog, and the woods were filled with these wild hogs.

Wild animals of all kinds were here. For many years a drove of panthers traversed the woods of Gallatin and Massac counties and Mr. Travelstead remembers distinctly when the last three panthers ever seen or heard of in this section were killed and by whom. **Jonathan Lambert**, who was a hunter on the Daniel Boone order, went all over the country, and one afternoon, down near what is now called Eagle Creek, the three dogs owned by Mr. Lambert got after a panther. The dogs finally ran the panther up a big tree, and Mr. Lambert came up. To his horror, he saw three big panthers in the tree, and while his dogs were barking, he killed all three, one at a time with his deadly aim and trusty rifle. That was the end of the panther scare in this part of the state because none were ever heard or seen after that. For years after that, and possibly until this day. The spot where those three panthers were killed was known as "Panther Roost".



Garden of the Gods Wilderness
Pope County, Illinois



Bell Smith Springs, In the heart of
the Shawnee National Forest

It fell to a man named **William Reynolds*** to kill the last bear ever seen in this country, this taking place down near the Pope county line. But just a few weeks before that, the same Lambert mentioned above explored the cave out near Sulphur Springs, which is now visited by so many people each year and has been for years. Lambert and his dogs were out hunting one day and a big bear was seen on top of the mountains not a great distance from the mouth of the cave. Mr. Lambert took one shot at the bear and saw it fall, only to get up and run off. He and dogs took after it, because it had been wounded, one of its legs having been broken. The bear was trailed through the snow to the cave, which it entered. Lambert and dogs went in, but soon came out, as there were several bears inside and possibly other animals. However all were driven out some time later and that was followed by the killing of the bear by Mr. Reynolds, and no bear has been seen in this vicinity since that day.

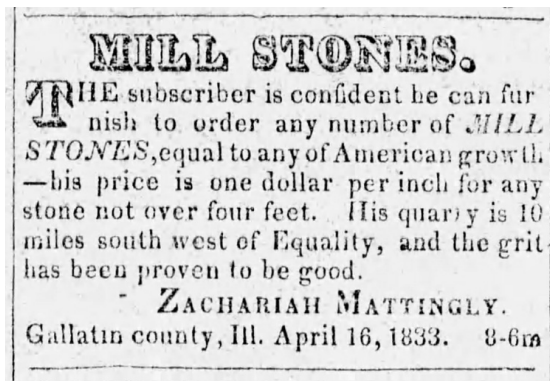
* William Reynolds is likely either William Buck Reynolds, the father of Margaret Reynolds who married William Alexander Gibbs, or William Buck Reynolds' uncle William Reynolds.



Jackson Falls in the
Shawnee National Forest

The only postoffices in this section in the early days were located at Vienna, Equality and Shawneetown, and the government had the mail carried by man and horse. Mr. Travelstead recalled the time when **John D. Cummins** had charge of government horses at a stable in Mountain township on the road leading from Vienna to Equality, where the mail rider would change horses as he passed through. There were no postage stamps at that time and no envelopes. People writing letters would fold them up and seal them with red sealing wax, giving the mailman a coin valued at 6 ¼ cents. If the letter told of a death, it would be sealed with black sealing wax.

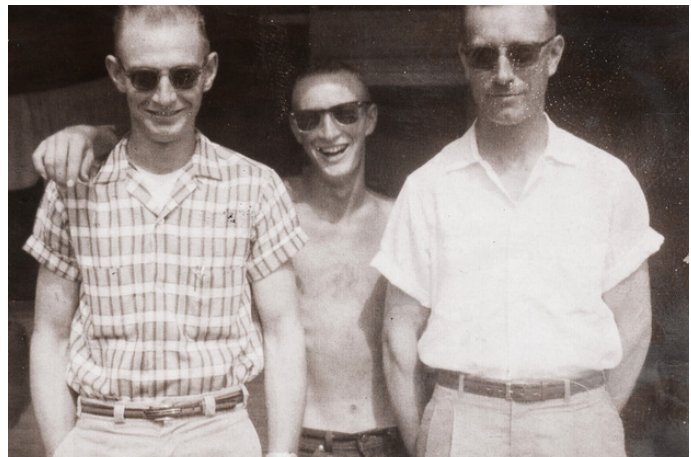
One of the most interesting incidents Mr. Travelstead told us about was the manner in which people would go from one settlement to another without becoming lost. It must be remembered that there were no roads, excepting a main trail leading from Shawneetown across the state to Missouri. If the few people in Brushy desired to go over to a settlement in Galatia or that part, or go to one south of Brushy, they had to pass through a wilderness that was practically a dense thicket. A trail was blazed by cutting three notches on a tree, each side, and if any man was caught putting more than three notches on a tree, he was immediately run out of the country. As long as you could see three notches on a tree, you were not lost."



Illinois State Register

Springfield, Illinois · Saturday, November 30, 1833

Zachariah Mattingly is the great grandfather of Gertie Mattingly Gibbs and is the first Mattingly of our direct line to arrive in Illinois pre-1830



Earl, Willis and Challis Gibbs



Matthew & George Gibbs



Photo Courtesy: Judy Gibbs Rourke

Gertie Mattingly Gibbs is 3rd from left, the others are unknown
but almost certainly some are her siblings



Photo Courtesy: Edna Meadows Butler

Earl, Junior, Gertie, Willis and Iva May Gibbs



A collage of unidentified photographs from George Gibbs' collection, some of which were inherited from Gertie Gibbs. Many are fellow soldiers, places visited while in the service (from George and several brothers) and friends from Harrisburg.



Photo Courtesy: Edna Meadows Butler

Bob Gibbs and his children John and Darlene at Gertie's house



Photo Courtesy: Edna Meadows Butler

Gertie and Bob Gibbs

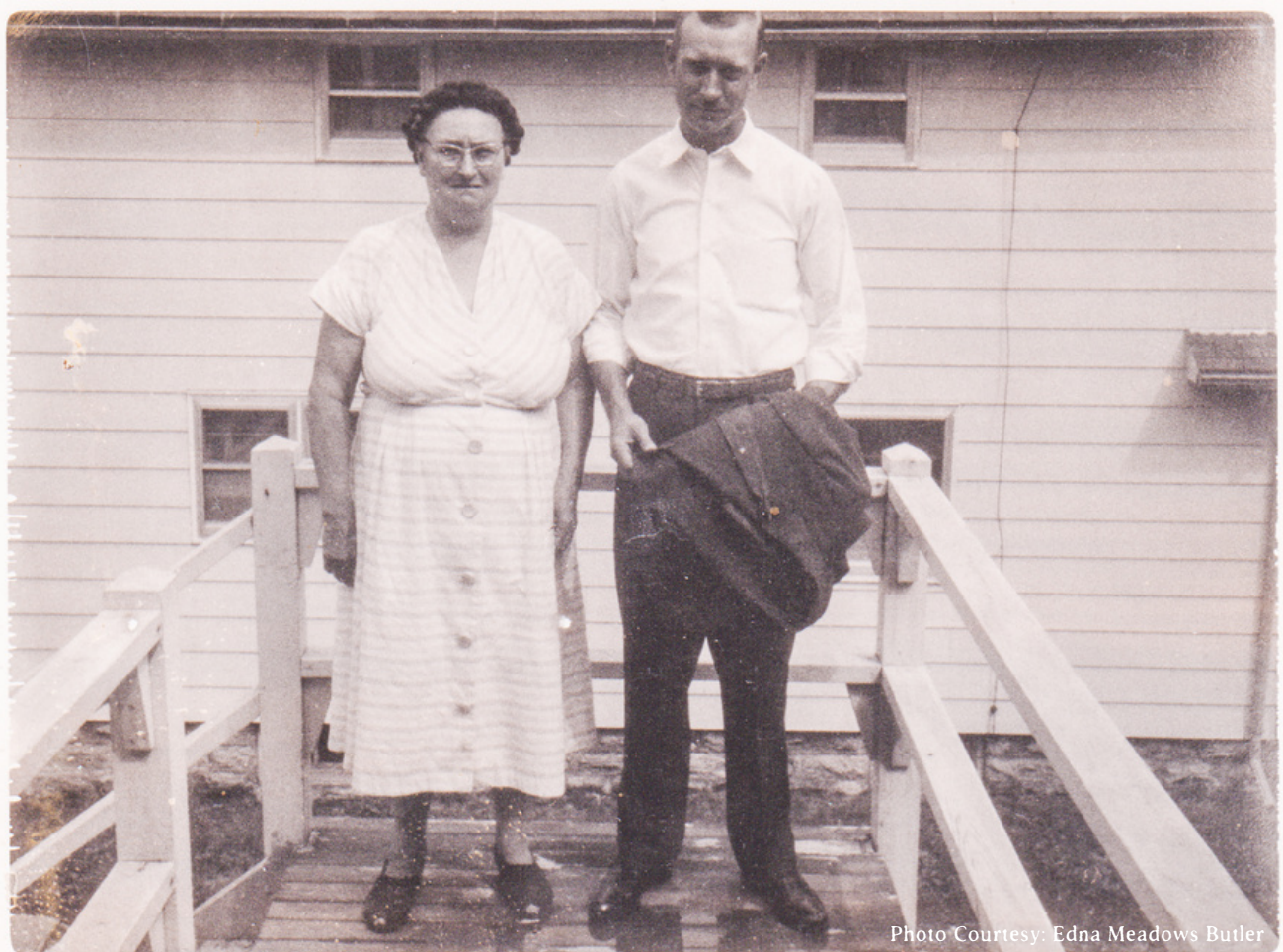


Photo Courtesy: Edna Meadows Butler

Gertie and son Challis Monroe Gibbs

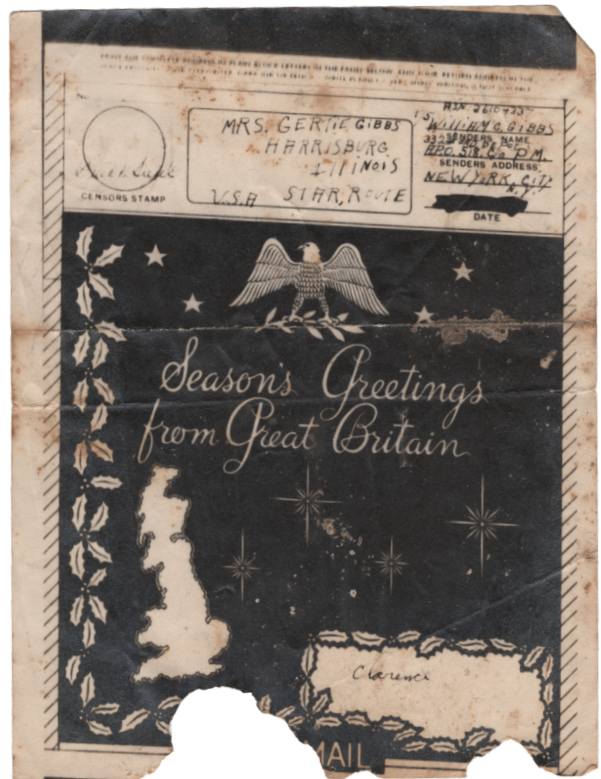


Dianna, Gertie, Robert (Bob), Margaret, Darlene & John Gibbs. April 1971

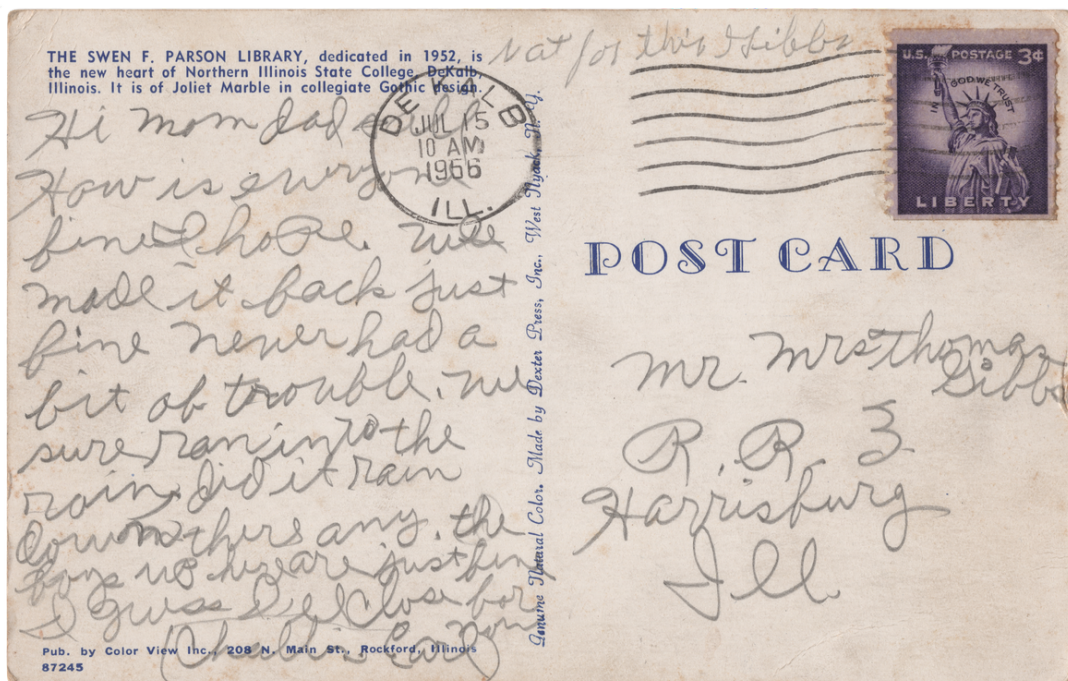


Photo Courtesy: Kathy Gibbs Floit

Gertie Mattingly Gibbs, John Gibbs, Darlene Gibbs, Robert "Bob" Gibbs, 1972



V-Mail sent by William Clarence Gibbs to his mother Gertie Gibbs during WWII



Postcard to Tom & Gertie Gibbs sent from Challis & Earl Gibbs after their return to DeKalb from a visit to Harrisburg

Left to Right: Gertie Gibbs,
JW Meadows, Darlene Gibbs,
John Wayne Meadows, John,
Robert (Bob), Margaret,
Dianna & Iva Gibbs
Meadows. April 1971

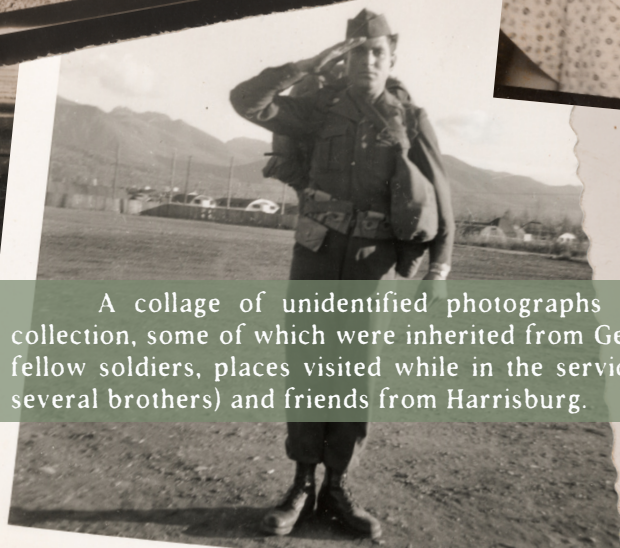


Photo Courtesy: Kathy Gibbs Floit

Left to Right: Mark, Bob, Billy, Willis, Earl, Iva, Clarence, Myrtle, Junior, Leonard, George Gibbs
Funeral for Challis Gibbs, DeKalb Illinois May 1988



Photo Courtesy: Kathy Gibbs Floit



A collage of unidentified photographs from George Gibbs' collection, some of which were inherited from Gertie Gibbs. Many are fellow soldiers, places visited while in the service (from George and several brothers) and friends from Harrisburg.

In Memory Of Our Mother

Gertie Gibbs

Who's passing was October 21, 1977

Sadly missed but never forgotten by Sons:

**Clarence, Leonard, Willis, George,
Junior, Bob, Earl, Bill & Mark Gibbs**

**Daughter Myrtle Wren,
Grandchildren**

Mary Gertrude Gibbs

HARRISBURG — Mrs. Mary G. Gibbs, 80, of Harrisburg, formerly of DeKalb, died Nov. 13, 1977, in Harrisburg.

She was born on Oct. 20, 1897, in Harrisburg, the daughter of William and Effie Mattingly.

She was married to Thomas Gibbs in 1917.

She was a member of the Corinth Baptist Church.

Her survivors include 11 sons, George, Robert, Challis all of DeKalb, Bill, Earl both of Compton, Clarence, Willis, Leonard, Mark all of Pontiac, Mich.; Junior, Matthew both of Harrisburg; two daughters, Iva of Harrisburg, and Myrtle of Pontiac.

Services are pending at the Gaskins Funeral Home, Harrisburg.

Services Wednesday for Mrs. Gertrude Gibbs, 80

Funeral services for Mrs. Gertrude Gibbs, 80, will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday from the chapel of the Gaskins Funeral Home, where friends are calling. The Rev. Carl Downey will officiate, assisted by the Rev. Harry Hancock. Burial will be in Lockwood Cemetery.

Mrs. Gibbs resided at 1522 South McKinley St. and died Sunday at 9:30 p.m. at Saline Care Center. She was born in Saline County on Oct. 20, 1897, daughter of the late William and Effie Cummins Mattingly. Her husband, Thomas Gibbs, preceded her in death.

She is survived by 12 children; a sister and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The Daily Chronicle

De Kalb, Illinois • Tue, Nov 15, 1977 Page 5

Death Takes Mrs. Effie Goulsby, 88; Funeral Sunday

Mrs. Effie Goulsby, 88, died unexpectedly at 3:15 p. m. Thursday in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Blanch Lane, Harrisburg RFD 3. She was the daughter of the late Billy and Henrietta Cummins, and was born August 5, 1869, in Saline county. She was married to Henry Mattingly, who died in 1907, and later was married to Joe Goulsby, who died in 1941. She was a member of the Blue Springs church near Rudement.

Mrs. Goulsby is survived by her daughters, Mrs. Allard Younger, Mrs. Blanch Lane, with whom she made her home, and Mrs. Gertie Gibbs, all of RFD 3, Harrisburg, and Mrs. Alice Pickering, RFD 2, Harrisburg; her son, Webb Mattingly, Pontiac, Mich.; her brother, Charles Cummins, Harrisburg, and her sister, Mrs. Minnie Seets, Harrisburg. There are 35 grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

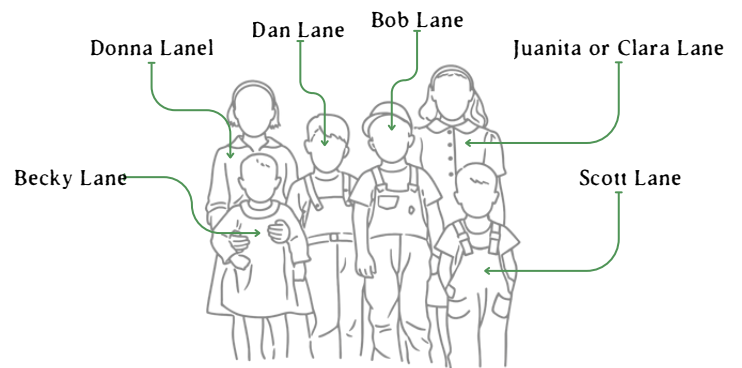
The body will lie in state in the chapel of the Gaskins funeral home until time for the funeral. Funeral services will be held at Big Saline church at 1:30 p. m. Sunday and burial will be in the church cemetery.

The Daily Register

Harrisburg, Illinois • Fri, Sep 13, 1957 Page 1



Lilly Blanche Mattingly Lane
Sister of Gertie Mattingly Gibbs





The Lanes - Some of the children of Gertie Gibbs' sister, Lilly Blanche Mattingly Lane. Circa 1942



The Lanes

Back Row: Jean, Pearl, Bob, Tobby, Wanda, Donna, Dan, Scott, Becky
 Front Row: Lee, William, Roy, Blanche (Mattingly), Juanita, Clara



Minnie Gibbons Travelstead with husband
Anthony Travelstead, Son of A. A. Travelstead



Effie Mattingly and husband
Frederick Younger

STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
Saline COUNTY. }

The People of the State of Illinois, to any person
legally authorized to Solemnize Marriage—GREETING:

Marriage may be Celebrated Between Mr. *W H Mattingly* of *Somerset Pae*
in the County of *Saline* and State of *Illinois* of the age of *24* years,
and *Miss Effie Cummins* of *Somerset* in the County of *Saline*
and State of *Illinois* of the age of *19* years.

WITNESS, *James H Pearce* County Clerk, and the Seal of said
County, at his office in *Harrisburg* in said County, this *16th*
day of *Feb* A. D. 1889

James H Pearce County Clerk.

STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
Saline COUNTY. } ss. I, *H L Vonlinen* a Justice of the Peace
hereby certify that Mr. *W H Mattingly* and
Miss Effie Cummins were united in Marriage by me at *Brides Parents*
in the County of *Saline* and State of Illinois, on the *17th* day of *Feb* A. D. 1889

H L Vonlinen
J P

Marriage record of W. H. Mattingly and Effie Cummins, parents of Gertie Mattingly Gibbs

Mr. and Mrs. Webb Mattingly and son, Larry, of Pontiac, Mich., are visiting in this vicinity with relatives including their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Knight, of Harrisburg, and Mrs. Effie Goulsby, of Somerset, while Mr Mattingly is recuperating from an operation.

The Daily Register
Harrisburg, Illinois • Thu, Jun 26, 1947

Right: Willis Gibbs with his
uncle Webb D. Mattingly



Webb Dean Mattingly, brother of Gertie Mattingly Gibbs



William Henry Mattingly was born on December 14, 1864, in Saline County, Illinois, the youngest son of **James Curtis Mattingly** and **Mary Ellen Hickman**. His early years were shaped by instability and loss. His parents' marriage dissolved shortly after his birth, and in 1886, when Henry was just twenty-one years old, his father died. These events left him largely without parental support as he entered adulthood.

Despite these challenges, Henry established himself as a working family man in the same rural communities his father had long inhabited. In 1889, he married **Effie Cummins**, and together they raised a household in Saline County. By the 1900 federal census, the family was residing in Mountain Township, Saline County, where Henry was listed as a farmer, continuing the agricultural livelihood that had defined the Mattingly family for generations. Much like other contemporary families of the era such as the Gibbs, relatively few surviving records document Henry Mattingly's life. Beyond census enumerations and vital events, he appears only sporadically in the historical record, a circumstance not uncommon for working farmers of his generation whose lives were largely confined to local, undocumented routines of labor and family responsibility.



Effie and W. H. Mattingly Headstone
 Note: The surname on this headstone is inscribed as Mattingley. Documentary evidence indicates that members of our Mattingly family almost consistently spelled the name Mattingly, without the final "e," suggesting the inscription reflects a clerical or stonemason's error rather than a true alternate family spelling.

Like many rural families of the period, Henry and Effie endured repeated personal loss, including the deaths of infants and young children. William supported his household through steady farm labor until his premature death on April 26, 1907, at the age of forty-two.

Following his death, the Mattingly family appears to have experienced a period of financial or personal hardship. By the 1910 federal census, Henry's widow, Effie Cummins Mattingly, and their children—including Mary Gertrude "Gertie" Mattingly—were residing in the household of William's sister, **Matilda Mattingly**. Matilda never married and was described as a spinster in her 1922 obituary. Having inherited the majority of their father's estate upon his death in 1886, she was likely in a position to provide stability and assistance to her brother's family during a vulnerable period, underscoring the importance of extended kinship networks in sustaining widowed households in early twentieth-century southern Illinois.



Left to right, Effie Cummins Mattingly, Sophronia Cummins Sisk, Edith Cummins Brown, Henrietta Travelstead Cummins (mother of the children), Della Cummins Reynolds, Minnie Cummins Seats, Charles Cummins



William G & Ida P Mattingly, died in infancy
The first two Children of W. H. and Effie Mattingly

EAGLE CREEK.

There were several strangers out at meeting Sunday.

B. F. Sourheaver of Independence was here Friday.

T. L. Blackman is expected in from Indianapolis, Tuesday.

Mr. Williams of Omaha was down at J. G. Ferrell's Friday.

Wm. Wiedemann and wife of Grossville are here on a visit.

L. G. Blackman and Temple Aydelott went to Niagara Falls last week.

W. E. Ferrell of Brushy was down to see his brother, John G., Sunday.

J. M. Colbert and family took dinner, Sunday, with Rube Barnett, sr.

Wm. and Eleanor Healey visited their brother, George below Leamington, Sunday.

Bro. Rose of Delwood came in Thursday to help in the meeting at Jones.

Edgar Greer and wife of Memphis, Tenn., are in on a visit to his folks here.

Spradley & Son and McKenzie each pulled out with their threshers Thursday.

There were quite a lot of pretty girls at Reuben Barnett's for dinner Sunday.

J. M. Healy has been visiting in White county for the last three or four days.

Bethel, Ark., you are badly mistaken and I am willing to leave it with the girls.

The Jones cemetery was cleaned off Thursday and Friday. Aaron Hull was elected trustee.

Alfred Vinyard and Miss Lula Hall were married Thursday. Here's my ~~32~~ for their success in life.

The Sherrod boys and W. H. Mattingly of Somerset were over last week making us some good roads.

Rube Barnett, sr. and family visited his

SOMERSET.

Our school will start a Literary soon.

John Simons of Paris is visiting J. T. Cummins Jr.

Coal hauling and corn gathering is the order of the day.

H. C. Driskell bought a western mare from Wilson Mitchell for \$110.

William Mattingly and Mrs. Dan Sherrod are reported very sick.

Miss Bessie Butler is staying with Curt Mattingly and wife at Rudement.

Clarence Cummins and sister Stella of Harrisburg visited here Saturday night and Sunday.

Misses Pearl and Stella Brown and Mary Von Lienen visited at Ben Butler's, Sunday.

Saline County Register
Harrisburg, Illinois - November, 17 1905 page 2

Saline County Register
Harrisburg, Illinois Aug 21, 1903, page 8



Coffee Cemetery
Somerset, Saline County, Illinois



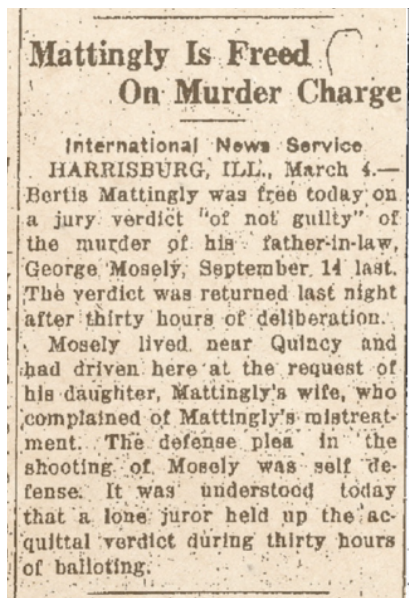
Henrietta Travelstead Cummins Crabb (Front right), maternal grandmother of Gertie Gibbs, widow of Billy Cummins. Pictured with second husband Sgt. Thomas Wesley Crabb, confederate veteran and his grandchildren Elsie Crabb Partain, Sherman Crabb, Robert Sherrod (?) and Susan Crabb Weatherington.
Circa 1905



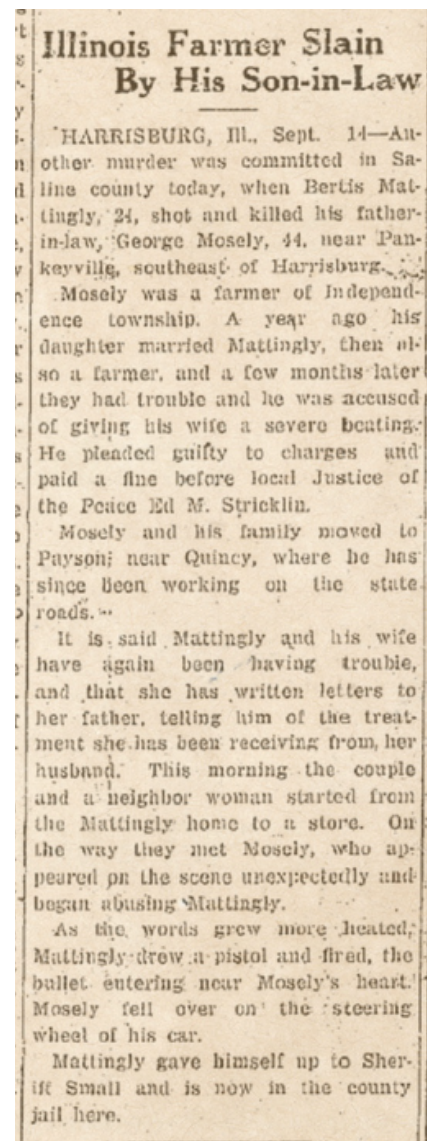
John Daniel Mattingly
1853 - 1930
Uncle of Gertie Mattingly Gibbs



Bertis Mattingly, son of John Daniel Mattingly and 1st Cousin
of Gertie Mattingly Gibbs, with wife Mable Mosley Mattingly



The Daily Independent
Murphysboro, Illinois Thursday March 4th 1926



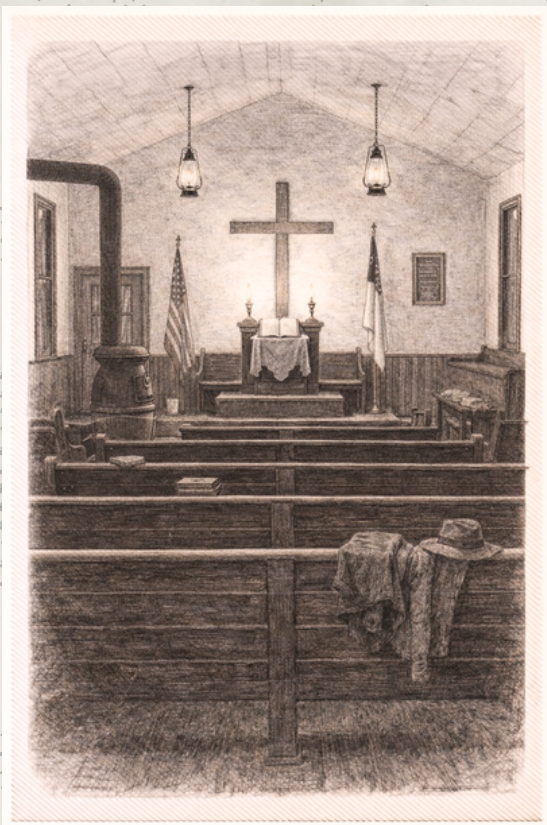
The Daily Free Press
Carbondale, Illinois Wednesday September 16th 1925



James Curtis Mattingly was born on October 3, 1825, in Illinois, a member of the Mattingly family that migrated west from Kentucky into southern Illinois during the state's early settlement period. By the mid-nineteenth century, he was established in Saline County as a farmer and landholder, appearing regularly in census schedules, church records, and court proceedings that document his economic standing and role within the local community.

In the 1850 federal census, Curtis Mattingly was enumerated only a few households from Leroy Gibbs, an early indication of the geographic proximity between the Mattingly and Gibbs families. Curtis was listed as a farmer with real property valued at \$250, reflecting a modest but stable foothold in the county's agricultural economy. Although no familial relationship yet existed, such proximity suggests routine interaction within the same rural neighborhood.

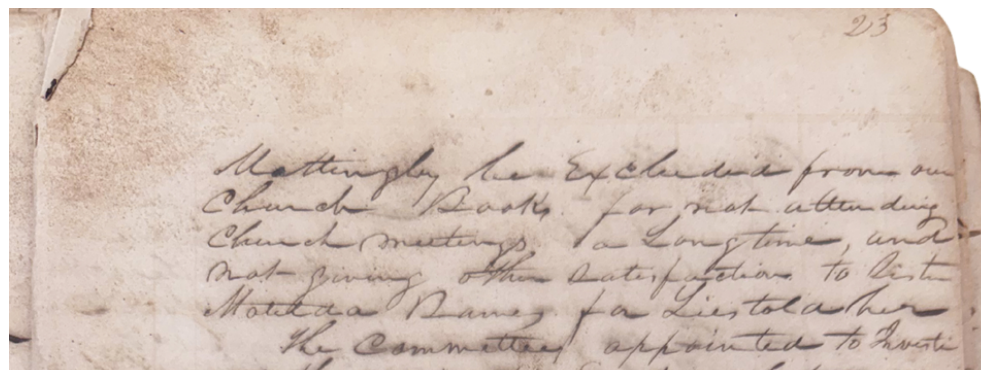
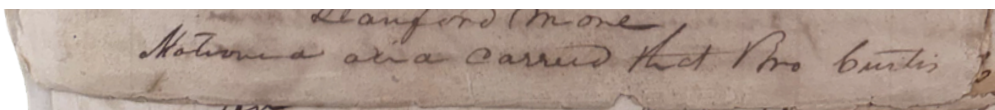
Curtis's material position improved steadily over the following decades. In 1860, he was enumerated adjacent to Cornelius M. Gibbs Sr. and his wife Elizabeth Gibbons Estes Gibbs, reinforcing the sustained closeness of the two households. By that year, Curtis's real estate was valued at \$800 and his personal estate at \$450. This trajectory continued after the Civil War, and by 1870 he held \$1,500 in real estate and \$800 in personal property, placing him among Saline County's established farming households.



Interpretation of how Big Saline Baptist Church may have looked in the 1860s based on a modern photograph

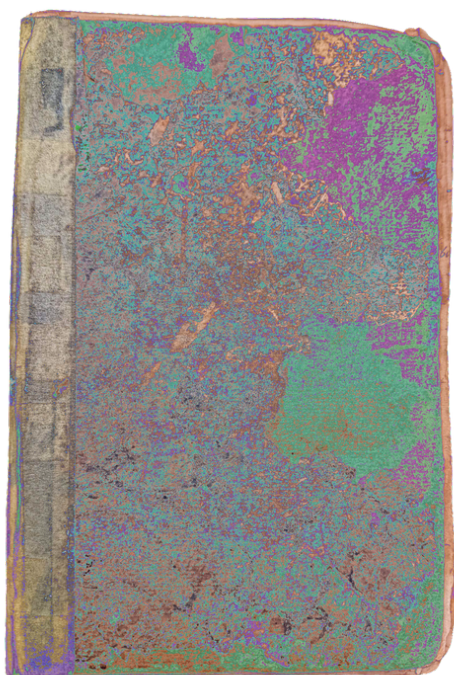
Big Saline Baptist Church Minute Book

Courtesy Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library



July Term 1854

Motions are carried that Bro Curtis Mattingly be excluded from our Church book for not attending church meetings a long time, and not giving other satisfaction to Sister Matilda Barnes for lies told her."



Cover of the minute book of the Big Saline baptist church in the archives of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois

Curtis Mattingly's life was shaped not only by economic progress but also by interpersonal conflict and community oversight. In the July Term 1854 minutes of the Big Saline Baptist Church, the congregation voted to exclude "Brother Curtis Mattingly" from membership for prolonged absence from church meetings and for failing to provide satisfactory reconciliation to Sister **Matilda Barnes** concerning statements alleged to have been untrue. In a rural Baptist community, such an exclusion represented a serious moral and social sanction, underscoring the close connection between church membership and personal reputation in mid-nineteenth-century southern Illinois.

Curtis married three times. His first marriage, to Mary Susan Barnes, produced several children before her death in 1855. His second marriage, to Elizabeth Ewell, ended with her death in 1859. On February 1, 1864, Curtis married **Mary Ellen Hickman**, but the marriage quickly deteriorated. In September 1866, Curtis filed for divorce, alleging that Mary Hickman had abandoned and deserted him on July 1, 1864, only five months after their marriage. Desertion was a recognized statutory ground for divorce under Illinois law at the time. Despite the dissolution of the marriage, Mary Hickman was the mother of Curtis's youngest child, **William Henry Mattingly**, born later in 1864.

CURTIS MATTINGLY vs. MARY (HICKMANS) MATTINGLY Box# Sept. 1866
Cause of divorce: desertion File # 94
Case filed 28 May 1866 Case disposed of Sept. 1866
Date of marriage: 1 Feb. 1864
He claims that on 1 July 1864, she abandoned and deserted him.
Summoned as witnesses was : Joseph N. Barnes and Henry Barnes.

Curtis Mattingly also appears repeatedly in Saline County circuit court records in matters beyond his own domestic affairs, reflecting his integration into the county's social and legal fabric. In the contentious divorce case **Francis A. Ewell v. Hardy Ewell**, filed in the Saline County Circuit Court in chancery (October Term 1868), Curtis Mattingly was listed among a large slate of subpoenaed witnesses. The case involved allegations of extreme cruelty, threats, and attempted poisoning and drew testimony from physicians, relatives, and numerous neighbors bearing familiar surnames—including Barnes, Lee, Coffee, Church, Cummins, and others. Curtis's inclusion among these witnesses situates him within the same interconnected community network that appears consistently across church minutes, census records, and court proceedings.

James Curtis Mattingly remained in Saline County through the postwar years, continuing to farm and manage his affairs until his death on March 25, 1886. Probate records indicate that he left an estate of sufficient size to require formal administration, with the majority ultimately passing to his unmarried daughter, Matilda Mattingly. His life reflects both economic persistence and the complex interplay of family, reputation, and community accountability in nineteenth-century southern Illinois.

MISS MATILDA MATTINGLY, a spinster who lived on a farm near Somerset for many years, died at one o'clock Monday afternoon, after being ill for some time with a complication of diseases. She was 72 years old.

Miss Mattingly is survived by one brother, John Mattingly, who has been dangerously ill for some time. She lived alone but was taken care of during her illness by neighbors and friends. Funeral services were held at 2 o'clock this afternoon, followed by burial at the Coffee cemetery.

219

Last Will of Curtis Mattingly

I Curtis Mattingly of Lowest Precinct Saline County in the State of Illinois do make and publish this my last Will and testament hereby revoking & making void all former Wills by me at any time heretofore made. First I direct that my body be decently interred and that my funeral be conducted in a manner corresponding with my estate and situation in life and as to such worldly estate as it pleased God to entrust me with I do bequeath of the same in the following manner, to wit: I direct first that all my just debts and funeral expenses be paid as soon after my decease as possible out of the first money that shall come into the hands of my executor from any portion of my estate real or personal. First I give and bequest to my daughter Matilda Mattingly the following personal property to wit: one reaper mower combined, One Wheat fan all the farming utensils on the farm one good mare, One Bay horse with cows, Two Star Calves, four hogs, two of them have pigs forty five head of other hogs, Nineteen head of sheep all of my household and kitchen furniture, Three head Mules all of my corn now in the crib on my place all of my wheat and oat crop now growing four feather beds 13 quilts nine ~~matt~~ pillows Two two horse wagons also One hundred and ten dollars in cash all the salt meat now belonging to me. Second: I give & devise to my son John D Mattingly apportioned his heirs and also to my son Hiram Mattingly or his heirs and to my son William A Mattingly for his heirs each one of abovesaid sons the sum of Two Dollars each to be paid to them out of my money coming into the hands of my executor belonging to my estate I also hold two promissory notes dated March 22nd 1886 one for the sum of Six hundred Dollars payable to me by my son W A Mattingly due Dec. 1st, 1886 of which sum only one half shall be collected should I die before said notes become due, also one note drawn payable to me by my son John D Mattingly for the sum of One hundred & fifty Dollars of which sum only One hundred & three dollars or so much as shall be necessary to pay of a note held against me by Trustees of School No. 10 R 7 Saline Co. Ill. both of abovesaid notes are due Dec. 1st, 1886 and I direct that if I die before said notes become due that my executor collect only one half of the aforesaid note I hold against W A Mattingly and pay same so collected as all just debts shall against me or my estate and I direct that my executor in case of my death before the notes I hold against said J D Mattingly become due collect sufficient to pay off my School note above described and all

the remainder remaining unpaid and said notes shall more be collected the remainder then due I give and devise to each of the payors of said notes and lastly I do hereby nominate and appoint Robert M Taylor to be the executor of this my last Will and testament hereby revoking all former will by me made in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 23rd day of March 1886

Witness

Curtis^{his} Mattingly
mark

Last Will of Curtis Mattingly

I, Curtis Mattingly of Somerset Precinct, Saline County in the State of Illinois do make and publish this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking and making void all former wills by me at any time heretofore made.

First, I direct that my body be decently interred and that my funeral be conducted in a manner corresponding with my estate and situation in life; and as to such worldly estate as it hath pleased God to entrust me with, I dispose of the same in the following manner, to wit:

I direct first that all my just debts and funeral expenses be paid as soon after my decease as possible out of the first money that shall come into the hands of my executor from any portion of my estate real or personal.

First I give and bequeath to my daughter Matilda Mattingly the following personal property, to wit:

One wheat fan, all the farming utensils on the farm, one sorrel mare, one bay horse, four milk cows, two star calves, two sows (two of them have pigs), thirty-five head of other hogs, nineteen head of sheep, all of my household and kitchen furniture, three head mules, all the corn now in the crib on my place, all of my wheat and oat crop now growing, four feather beds, thirteen quilts, nine pillows, two two-horse wagons, also one hundred and ten dollars in cash, and all the salt meat now belonging to me.

Second, I give to my son John D. Mattingly, his heirs and assigns forever, and to my son William H. Mattingly, his heirs and assigns forever, each one the sum of five dollars, to be paid to them out of my money coming into the hands of my executor belonging to my estate.

I also hold two promissory notes dated March 22nd 1886, one for the sum of Six Hundred Dollars payable to me by my son W. H. Mattingly, due Dec. 1st 1886, of which sum only one half shall be collected should I die before said notes become due.

Also one note made payable to me by my son John D. Mattingly for the sum of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars, of which sum only One Hundred and Three Dollars, or so much as shall be necessary to pay off a note held against me by Trustee of School Tio R7 Saline Co., Ills.

Both of the above named notes are due Dec. 1st 1886 and I direct that if I die before said notes become due that my executor collect only one half of the aforesaid note I hold against W. H. Mattingly and pay the same so collected on all just debts held against me or my estate.

And I direct that my executor, in case of my death before the notes I hold against J. D. Mattingly become due, collect sufficient to pay off my school note above described and all the remainder remaining unpaid on said notes shall then be collected. I give and devise to each of the payors of said notes.

And lastly I do hereby nominate and appoint Robert M. Taylor to be the executor of this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking all former wills by me made.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 23rd day of March 1886.

His
Curtis X Mattingly
Mark

A decorative border surrounds the central text. It consists of four corner squares and four side rectangles. The corner squares feature a complex interlocking knot design with a central flower. The side rectangles feature a repeating floral and foliate pattern. The entire border is rendered in shades of green and gold on a light background.

CHAPTER 7

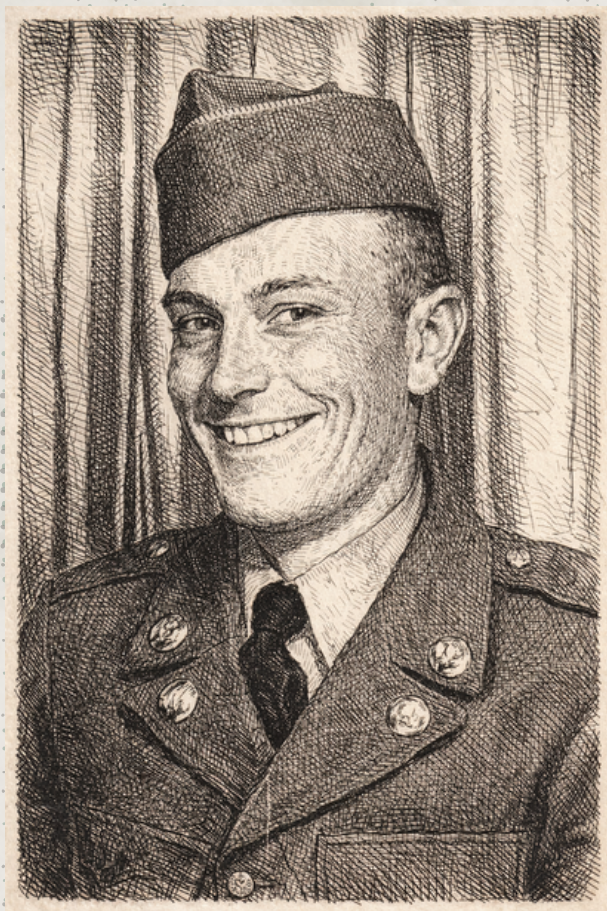
GEORGE LINCOLN
GIBBS



George Lincoln Gibbs, the eighth of Thomas and Gertie's children, was born on January 24, 1929, in Independence, Saline County. Growing up during the Depression in a crowded farmhouse, George learned responsibility early. Every child had chores, whether tending livestock, hauling water, or helping in the fields.

But George also recalled moments of fun. He loved to tell the story of a game he and his siblings played on the farm, a variation of kick the can where they used a stick instead of a foot. One time, the can flew unexpectedly into the air and struck one of his brothers in the face, cutting him. It was a memory George carried with humor, a glimpse into the rough-and-tumble childhood shared among siblings on the farm.

In 1949, at age twenty, George moved north to DeKalb, Illinois, joining a wave of young people leaving southern Illinois in search of opportunity. His move placed him in the community that would define the rest of his life.





MAP OF

SALINE

COUNTY

135



MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING. Write Plainly with Unfading Ink.—This is a permanent Record. Local Registrars must make on this form a complete and accurate copy of the original Certificate and forward this copy to County Clerk on 10th day of each month. Omissions or errors must be noted.

Local Registrars MUST NOT issue this form to Physicians, Midwives or others, but must use it only for preparing County Clerk's (or Local Registrar's) Copies.

N. B.—In case of more than one child at a birth, a SEPARATE RETURN must be made for each, and the number of each, in order of birth, stated. In case of Plural Births, Local Registrars will note here the Registered Nos. of Certificates of "Mates" and show whether Births or Stillbirths.

248

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Department of Public Health
Division of
VITAL STATISTICS
COUNTY CLERK'S RECORD

CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH
-OR GENEALOGICAL PURPOSES ONLY-

1. PLACE OF BIRTH
County of Saline Registration Dist. No. 7662
Independent *Township *Road Dist. *Village *City
*(Cancel the three terms not applicable—Do not enter "R. R.," "R. F. D.," or other P. O. address). Primary Dist. No. _____

Street and Number, No. George St., _____ Ward, _____ Hospital _____
(If birth occurred in hospital or institution, give its name instead of street and number).
(If child is not yet named, make supplemental report, as directed)

2. FULL NAME OF CHILD Roy Gibbs

3. Sex of Child male 4. Twin, triplet or other? no 5. Number in order of birth _____ 6. Legitimate? yes 7. Date of birth Jan, 24, 1929
(Month) (Day) (Year)

8. FULL NAME FATHER Tom Gibbs 14. FULL MAIDEN NAME MOTHER Lurtrude Mattern
9. RESIDENCE (P. O. Address) Mitchellville Ia 15. RESIDENCE (P. O. Address) Mitchellville Ia
10. COLOR White 11. Age at last Birthday 41 Years 16. COLOR White 17. Age at last Birthday 33 Years
12. BIRTHPLACE (City or Place) Saline Co 18. BIRTHPLACE (City or Place) Saline Co
(Name State if in U. S.) Ia (Name State if in U. S.) Ia
(Name Country, if Foreign) _____ (Name Country, if Foreign) _____
13. OCCUPATION Farming 19. OCCUPATION House wife
(Nature of Industry) _____ (Nature of Industry) _____

20. NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF THIS MOTHER (Taken as of time of birth of child herein certified and including this child.) (a) Born alive and now living 8 (b) Born alive but now dead 2 (c) Stillborn 0

21. WHAT TREATMENT WAS GIVEN CHILD'S EYES AT BIRTH? _____

21. CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE*
I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was BORN ALIVE at _____ M., on the date above stated.
*When there is no attending physician or midwife, then the father, mother, householder, etc., shall make this return. See Sec. 12, vital statistics law. M. D. _____

22. [Signature] L. Mc Cornuck (Physician or Midwife)
Address Harrisburg Ia Telephone _____
Date Certificate Signed Jan, 24, 1929
(Month) (Day) (Year)

23. Given name added from a supplemental report George (Month) Jan, 1929 (Year)
FOR GENEALOGICAL PURPOSES ONLY

24. Filed Feb 9, 1930 Elmore Ellison Registrar
Post Office Address Harrisburg Ia R-3

The name originally recorded on the birth certificate of George Lincoln Gibbs is "Roy Gibbs." However, "Roy" is later crossed out and replaced with "George," written above it. This alteration may indicate a clerical error, or it could suggest that Tom and Gertie initially chose the name Roy but decided to change it to George shortly after the birth.

On January 25, 1951, George was inducted into the U.S. Army during the Korean War era. He served in Company C, 297th Engineer Aviation Battalion, a unit charged with constructing and maintaining airfields — essential work in modern warfare. His service echoed his father's, binding the family across two wars and two generations of sacrifice.



State Illinois

Incorporated place

(Insert proper name and also name of claim, as city, village, town, or borough. See instructions.)

County Saline

Ward of city

Block No.

Township or other division of county Independence Township
(Insert proper name and also name of claim, as township, town, precinct, district, etc. See instructions.)

Unincorporated place

(Enter name of any unincorporated place having approximately 500 inhabitants or more. See instructions.)

Institution

(Insert name of institution, if any, and indicate the

DEPARTMENT OF

FIFTEENTH CENSUS

POPULATION

PLACE OF ABODE				NAME of each person whose place of abode on April 1, 1930, was in this family Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any Include every person living on April 1, 1930. Omit children born since April 1, 1930	RELATION Relationship of this person to the head of the family	HOME DATA			PERSONAL DESCRIPTION				EDUCATION		PLACE OF BIRTH				
Street, avenue, road, etc.	House number (in cities or towns)	Number of dwelling house in order of visitation	Number of family in order of visitation			Home owned or rented	Value of home, if owned, or monthly rental, if rented	Radio set	Does this family live on a farm?	Sex	Color or race	Age at last birthday	Marital con- dition	Age at first marriage	Attended school any time since Sept. 1, 1929	Whether able to read and write	PERSON	FATHER	MOTHER
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1		66	67	Gibbs, Tom	Head	R			yes	M	W	41	M	22	no	no	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
2				— Gertrude	Wife-H				x	F	W	31	M	19	no	yes	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
3				— William C.	Son				x	M	W	12	S		yes	yes	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
4				— James M.	Son				x	M	W	10	S		yes	yes	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
5				— Leonard W.	Son				x	M	W	8	S		yes		Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
6				— Willis L.	Son				x	M	W	7	S		yes		Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
7				— John W.	Son				x	M	W	6	S		yes		Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
8				— Myrtle	Daughter				x	F	W	4 1/2	S		no		Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
9				— Eva M.	Daughter				x	F	W	2 1/2	S		no		Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
10				— Geo. Lincoln	Son				x	M	W	1 1/2	S		no		Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
11		67	68	Jackson, Henry	Head	O			yes	M	W	56	M	24	no	yes	Illinois	Kentucky	Illinois
12				— Minnie	Wife-H				x	F	W	55	M	23	no	yes	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
13				— Zola	Daughter				x	F	W	27	S		no	yes	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
14				— Elvis													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
15				— Velma													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
16		68	69	Johnson, Jess													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
17				— Claude													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
18				— Stacy													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
19				— Lura													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
20				— Reba													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
21				— Fay													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
22				— Freda													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
23				— Francis													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
24				Hudson, O.													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
25				— Helen													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
26		69	70	Pinkstaff, N.	Head	O			yes	M	W	61	M	31	no	yes	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
27				— Daisy													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
28				— Harry													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
29				— Elva													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
30				— Wilma													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
31				— Lillian													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
32		70	71	McCuan, J. P.													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
33				— Daisy													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
34				— Violet													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
35				— Lula M.													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
36		71	72	Allen, Morris													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
37				— Bessie													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
38				— Pearl													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
39				— Fred													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
40				— Violet													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
41				— Bessie													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
42				— Helen													Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
43				Barnfield, Jim	Brother-in-law				x	M	W	34	S		no	yes	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
44		72	73	Standaard, Otto	Head	R			yes	M	W	34	M	26	no	yes	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
45				— Verdine	Wife-H				x	F	W	24	M	18	no	yes	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky
46				— Beatrice	Daughter				x	F	W	8	S		yes		Illinois	Illinois	Kentucky
47				— Albert	Son				x	M	W	6	S		yes		Illinois	Illinois	Kentucky
48				— Irene	Daughter				x	F	W	1 1/2	S		no		Illinois	Illinois	Kentucky
49				— Henry	Father				x	M	W	73	D		no	yes	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
50		73	74	Vinyard, Clarence	Head	O			yes	M	W	34	M	23	no	yes	Arkansas	Illinois	Illinois

1930 Federal Census

Independence Township, Saline County, Illinois

The 1930 United States Census provides an early glimpse into the life of George Lincoln Gibbs, who appears in the record as a small child of just fourteen months. At the time of the enumeration, George was living with his parents and eight siblings, part of what was clearly a large and busy rural household typical of many farming families in southern Illinois during the early twentieth century.

His father, Tom Gibbs, is recorded in the census as a farmer. Rather than owning the land he worked, the census indicates that Tom rented the farm property where the family lived. Tenant farming and farm rentals were common arrangements during this period, particularly in the years surrounding the Great Depression, when many families worked land owned by others while striving to provide for their children.

Although George was still an infant at the time the census was taken, this record captures one of the earliest documented snapshots of his life, placing him within the Gibbs family household and within the rural farming community that shaped his early childhood.

ABBREVIATIONS TO BE USED
IN COLUMNS INDICATED:
(Use no abbreviations for State or country of birth
or for mother tongue (Columns 18, 19, 20, and 21))

Col. 6—Indicate the home-maker in each
family by the letter "H," fol-
lowing the word which shows
the relationship as "Wife—H"
Col. 7—Owned
Rented

Col. 9—Radio set... R
Make no entry for
families having no
radio set
Col. 11—Male
Female

Col. 12—White... W
Negro... N
Mexican... M
Indian... I
Chinese... C
Japanese... J

Col. 13—Single... S
Married... M
Widowed... W
Divorced... D

Col. 14—Single... S
Married... M
Widowed... W
Divorced... D

Col. 23—Naturalized... Na
First papers... Fp
Alien... Al

Col. 27—Employer... E
Wage or salary worker... W
Working on own account... O
Unpaid worker, member
of the family... NP

Col. 31—W... W
C... C
M... M



KOREA

GEORGE LINCOLN GIBBS

US ARMY

- **TIME IN SERVICE:**

25 Jan 1951 - 26 Jan 1953

- **RANK:**

Sgt

- **REGIMENT:**

297th Engr. Av. Btn

The 297th Engineer Aviation Battalion (EAB), including Company C, played a crucial role during the Korean War by constructing and maintaining airfields vital for U.S. and United Nations air operations. While specific records for Company C are limited, the battalion's overall contributions were significant in supporting the war effort.

Engineer Aviation Battalions like the 297th were tasked with:

- Building and repairing airstrips to ensure continuous air support.
- Constructing roads and bridges to facilitate troop and equipment movement.
- Clearing obstacles to secure operational areas.

These engineering feats were often executed under challenging conditions, including harsh weather.

The 297th EAB was deployed to Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska to support the rapid establishment of airfields necessary for combat and logistical operations. Their work enabled effective air support, which was crucial for various military campaigns during the conflict.

The efforts of the 297th EAB, including Company C, exemplify the indispensable role of engineering units in modern warfare. Their contributions ensured that air operations could be conducted efficiently, directly impacting the success of military objectives during the Korean War.

FORM APPROVED
Budget Bureau No. 33-R012-42

REGISTRATION CARD (Men born on or after July 1, 1924, and on or before December 31, 1924)
(Also for the registration of men as they reach the 18th anniversary of the date of their birth on or after January 1, 1943.)

SERIAL NUMBER	1. NAME (Print)			ORDER NUMBER
W 204	George	Lincoln	Gibbs	10792
(First) (Middle) (Last)				
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print)				
Star Route Harrisburg Pope Illinois				
(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)				
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON LINE 2 ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]				
3. MAILING ADDRESS				
Star Route, Harrisburg, Illinois				
(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same, insert word same)				
4. TELEPHONE		5. AGE IN YEARS		6. PLACE OF BIRTH
none		18		Saline County
		DATE OF BIRTH		(Town or county)
		January 24 1929		Illinois
(Exchange) (Number)		(Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)		(State or country)
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS				
Thomas Gibbs - Star Route, Harrisburg, Illinois				
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS				
Self employed on farm				
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS				
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)				
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.				
DSS Form 1 (Rev. 11-16-42)		16-21630-4 (OVER)		<i>George Lincoln Gibbs</i> (Registrant's signature)

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

RACE		HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION	
White	X	5'9"	135	Sallow	
Negro				Light	
Indian				Ruddy	X
Filipino				Dark	
Japanese				Freckled	
Other Oriental				Light brown	
				Dark brown	
				Black	

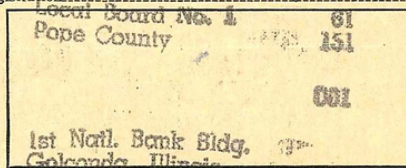
Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification
none

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Beatrice F. Seets
(Signature of registrar)

Registrar for Local Board 1 Saline Illinois
(Number) (City or county) (State)

Date of registration January 24, 1947



(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space)



ELMENDORF

AIR FORCE BASE

Anchorage, Alaska



Military Timeline of George Gibbs

- Enlisted - Jan 25th 1951
- Assigned to C Company, 297th Engineer Aviation Battalion, Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri - Jan 31st 1951
- Promoted Private E-2 May 28th 1951
- Awarded Duty Code 359 (Construction Machine Operator) - Jul 19th 1951
- Promoted to Private First Class - Jul 24th 1951
- Moved from Ft Leonard Wood, Missouri to Camp Beale, California - Aug 1951
- Ordered to Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska - May 3rd 1952
- Promoted to Sergeant - Jun 9th 1952
- Returned to Camp Beale, California - Oct 9th 1952
- Transferred to Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky for discharge - Dec 31st 1952







George Lincoln Gibbs,
all other soldiers are unknown







George Gibbs is bottom row 2nd from left



George Gibbs on right



Front & Center - George Lincoln Gibbs

Honorable Discharge

from the Armed Forces of the United States of America

This is to Certify, That

was Honorably Discharged from the

on the _____ day of _____
of Honest and Faithful Service.

This certificate is awarded as a testimonial

CHARACTER OF SEPARATION		REPORT OF SEPARATION FROM THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES		DEPARTMENT	
HONORABLE				ARMY	
1. LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE NAME GIBBS GEORGE LINCOLN		2. SERVICE NUMBER US 55 103 269		3. GRADE—RATE—RANK AND DATE OF APPOINTMENT Sgt (T) 9 June 52 AUS ENGR	
5. QUALIFICATIONS 3359 Bulldozer Operator		6. EFFECTIVE DATE OF SEPARATION 7-25.020 26 Jan 53		7. TYPE OF SEPARATION Trfd to ERC	
8. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION ETS AR 615-360 & SR 615-363-5		9. PLACE OF SEPARATION Abn Div Camp Breckinridge Kentucky			
10. DATE OF BIRTH 24 Jan 29		11. PLACE OF BIRTH (City & State) Harrisburg Illinois		12. DESCRIPTION Male Caucasian Brown Brown 69 146	
13. REGISTERED ☒ YES ☐ NO SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER 11 19 32 911		14. SELECTIVE SERVICE LOCAL BOARD NUMBER (City, County, State) Harrisburg Illinois		15. INDUCTED 25 Jan 51	
16. ENLISTED IN OR TRANSFERRED TO A RESERVE COMPONENT ☒ YES ☐ NO COMPONENT AND BRANCH OR CLASS 5th ENGR		17. MEANS OF ENTRY OTHER THAN BY INDUCTED ☐ ENLISTED ☐ REENLISTED ☐ COMMISSIONED ☒ CALLED FROM INACTIVE DUTY None		18. GRADE—RATE OR RANK AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE Pvt-1	
19. DATE AND PLACE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE DAY MONTH YEAR PLACE (City and State) 25 Jan 51 St Louis Missouri		20. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE (St., R.F.D., City, County and State) Harrisburg Illinois Star Route			
21. NET SERVICE COMPLETED FOR PAY PURPOSES EXCLUDING THIS PERIOD None		22. NET SERVICE COMPLETED FOR PAY PURPOSES THIS PERIOD 2 0 2		23. OTHER SERVICE (Act of 16 June 1942 as amended) COMPLETED FOR PAY PURPOSES 0 0 0	
24. TOTAL NET SERVICE COMPLETED FOR PAY PURPOSES 2 0 2		25. ENLISTMENT ALLOWANCE PAID ON EXTENSION OF ENLISTMENT, IF ANY None		26. FOREIGN AND/OR SEA SERVICE YEARS MONTHS DAYS 0 4 27	
27. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, COMMENDATIONS, CITATIONS, AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED None					
28. MOST SIGNIFICANT DUTY ASSIGNMENT Co C 297th EAB		29. WOUNDS RECEIVED AS A RESULT OF ACTION WITH ENEMY FORCES (Place and date, if known) NONE			
30. SERVICE SCHOOLS OR COLLEGES, COLLEGE TRAINING COURSES AND/OR POST-GRAD COURSES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED None MOP \$300		31. SERVICE TRAINING COURSES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED None		32. MONTH ALLOTMENT DISCONTINUED Waiver PL 23	
33. MONTH NEXT PREMIUM DUE May 53		34. MONTH NEXT PREMIUM DUE May 53		35. TOTAL PAYMENT UPON SEPARATION \$260.09	
36. TRAVEL OR MILITARY ALLOWANCE INCLUDED IN TOTAL PAYMENT \$6.00		37. DISBURSING OFFICER'S NAME AND SYMBOL NUMBER D L EVANS MAJOR FC 215-073		38. REMARKS (Continue on reverse) Blood Group O No days lost under Sec 6(a) App 2b MCM 1951 Cash settlement for 4 days unused lv made at discharge--Rel fr active military sv and transferred to ERC for 5 yrs under UMIS Act	
39. SIGNATURE OF OFFICER AUTHORIZED TO SIGN John S Konoza		40. V.A. BENEFITS PREVIOUSLY APPLIED FOR (Specify type) None			
41. DATES OF LAST CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT: FROM 1943 TO 1951		42. MAIN CIVILIAN OCCUPATION Farm Hand General		43. NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAST CIVILIAN EMPLOYER Leo Lane Harrisburg Illinois	
44. UNITED STATES CITIZEN ☒ YES ☐ NO		45. MARITAL STATUS Single		46. NON SERVICE EDUCATION (Years successfully completed) 8 0 0 None	
47. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES AFTER SEPARATION (St., R.F.D., City, County and State) SEE-20		48. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED George I. Gibbs			

ALL ENTRIES APPLY TO CURRENT PERIOD OF SERVICE (unless otherwise indicated)



*The United States of America
honors the memory of
George Lincoln Gibbs*

*This certificate is awarded by a grateful
nation in recognition of devoted and
selfless consecration to the service
of our country in the Armed Forces
of the United States.*

Lyndon B. Johnson
President of the United States

Courtesy of: Judy Gibbs Rourke

After his discharge, George returned to DeKalb and began his career with the Norman Oil Company, where he managed the service station on Lincoln Highway for nearly twenty years. His return marked a transition from wartime service to steady civilian work, and the station became the anchor of his daily life and professional identity.

Lincoln Highway was more than a road—it was America's first transcontinental highway, and in DeKalb it served as the city's commercial spine. In the 1950s and 1960s, service stations like Norman Oil were neighborhood institutions. Attendants pumped gas, checked oil levels, washed windshields, and offered directions or conversation along with routine service. Regular customers often stopped simply to talk, and trust mattered as much as efficiency. As manager, George was responsible not only for operations, but for maintaining those personal relationships, and he became a well-known and respected presence along the highway.

Two of George's of his brothers worked alongside him in DeKalb's service station trade. Robert Gene Gibbs managed another Norman Oil station on Sycamore Road, while Challis Monroe Gibbs also worked for the company. George remained especially close to these brothers, sharing both work and family life. He affectionately called Robert "Baby Bob," a nickname that followed him well into adulthood, and shared an easy humor and camaraderie with Challis. He was also close to his sister Iva Mae, whom he teasingly called "Ivy," reflecting the warmth and familiarity that defined the Gibbs siblings' relationships.

After leaving Norman Oil, George spent several years at General Electric in DeKalb, an employer that drew many into industrial work during the mid-20th century.

Later, he worked as a custodian at St. Mary's School, where his steady presence supported the life of the parish and its children.

Not all of the Gibbs siblings remained in DeKalb. Several moved north to Pontiac, drawn by the powerful pull of the postwar auto industry. In the late 1940s and 1950s, southeastern Michigan stood at the center of American industrial growth. Automobile manufacturing offered steady wages, union protection, benefits, and a level of economic security that was difficult to match elsewhere. For young men starting families—or hoping to do so—the promise of reliable, year-round employment was compelling.

Pontiac, located within commuting distance of Detroit's major plants, became home to thousands of workers seeking opportunity in the booming automotive economy. Factory jobs required long hours and physically demanding labor, but they provided predictable income, pensions, and advancement potential that appealed to working-class families shaped by the instability of the Depression and wartime service. Migration to Michigan followed established patterns, as friends, relatives, and neighbors shared information about openings and housing, easing the transition for new arrivals.

George, however, remained rooted in DeKalb, where he had first arrived in 1949. By the time his siblings looked north, George had already built a stable life through his long career with Norman Oil and had become a familiar figure along Lincoln Highway. DeKalb offered continuity—steady work, close family ties, and a strong sense of community—which outweighed the lure of higher industrial wages. His decision reflects a quieter but equally deliberate choice: to invest in place, relationships, and local identity rather than follow the broader current of postwar industrial migration.

MARRIAGE LICENSE
 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
 OGLE COUNTY
 To any Person legally authorized to solemnize Marriage
GREETING.
MARRIAGE MAY BE CELEBRATED

Between Mr. George L. Gibbs of Harrisburg
 in the County of Peoria and State of Illinois
 of the age of Twenty-five years and Miss Barbara J. Mueller
 of De Kalb in the County of De Kalb and State of Illinois
 of the age of Nineteen years

Witness Ada McGurk County Clerk
 and the seal of said County at his Office in Oregon in said County
 this 16th day of February A.D. 1954
 By: Grace E. Ehmen Deputy Ada McGurk County Clerk.

State of Illinois ss. I Robert Sanders
 OGLE COUNTY a Justice of the Peace hereby
 certify that Mr. George L. Gibbs and
Miss Barbara J. Mueller were united in Marriage by me at
Oregon in the County of Ogle
 and State of Illinois on the 16th day of February A.D. 1954

THIS LICENSE SHALL BE VOID UNLESS
 MARRIAGE IS SOLEMNIZED WITHIN
 30 DAYS OF THE DATE HEREOF

Robert Sanders
 Justice of the Peace

It is the duty of the person celebrating the Marriage to fill out and sign the above Certificate and to return the same together with the License to the County Clerk within thirty days after the Marriage is solemnized. ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS PENALTY FOR FAILING SO TO DO.

On February 15, 1954, George married Barbara Jean Cook in Oregon, Ogle County, Illinois. Barbara brought two daughters from a previous marriage, Sue and Kathy, into the family. George and Barbara's first child together, Roger Gibbs, was born on April 9, 1954, followed by their daughter, Judith "Judy," in December 1957.

On May 13, 1967, George filed for divorce, finalized on September 21, 1967. In an unusual outcome for the time, custody of Roger and Judy was awarded to George. He shouldered the role of single parent while continuing to work, a heavy burden. The divorce had a profound impact on Roger, who by early 1968 chose to live with his mother due to differences with George.

Though the separation was painful, George pressed on, raising Judy and providing for his family as best he could. His perseverance reflected the same determination that had carried his father through hardship decades earlier.

Department of Public Health

Return of a Marriage to County Clerk

No. 20710

Marriage License

ADULT

Mr. George L. Gibbs
with
Miss Barbara J. Mueller

Issued February 16, 1954

Married 19

File **FILED** 19

FEB 23 1954

Clerk.

Ada McSurk
CLERK

Registered 19

Marriage Register

Page

Department of Public Health Register

Page

ILLINOIS OFFICE SUPPLY CO., OTTAWA, ILL.

1. Full Name of GROOM GEORGE L. GIBBS
2. Place of Residence HARRISBURG, ILL.
3. Occupation LABORER
4. Age next Birthday 26 Yrs. Color W Race W
5. Place of Birth HARRISBURG, ILL.
6. Father's Name THOMAS GIBBS
7. Mother's Maiden Name GEERTIE MATTINGLEY
8. Number of Groom's Marriage 1ST
9. Full Name of BRIDE BARBARA J. MUELLER
Maiden Name, if a Widow
10. Place of Residence DE KALB, ILL.
11. Age next Birthday 20 Yrs. Color Race
12. Place of Birth DE KALB, ILL.
13. Father's Name ARTHUR COOK
14. Mother's Maiden Name ETHEL KING
15. Number of Bride's Marriage 2ND
16. Married at OREGON in the County of OGLE
16TH day of FEB. 1954
17. Witnesses to Marriage Dorothy E. Little
Ruby E. Cherry

N. B.—At Nos. 8 and 16 state whether 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc., marriage of each; 17, give names of subscribing witnesses to the Marriage Certificate. If no subscribing witnesses, give names of two persons who witnessed the ceremony.

We hereby certify that the information above given is correct, to the best of our knowledge and belief.

George L. Gibbs (Groom)
Barbara J. Mueller (Bride)

I hereby certify that the above is a correct return of a Marriage solemnized by me.

Dorothy E. Little
Ruby E. Cherry
Dated at Oregon this 16th
day of FEB. 1954

This Return is to be carefully filled out and returned with the Marriage License. This Return does not take the place of the Certificate which comes attached to the License, but is IN ADDITION THEREOF.

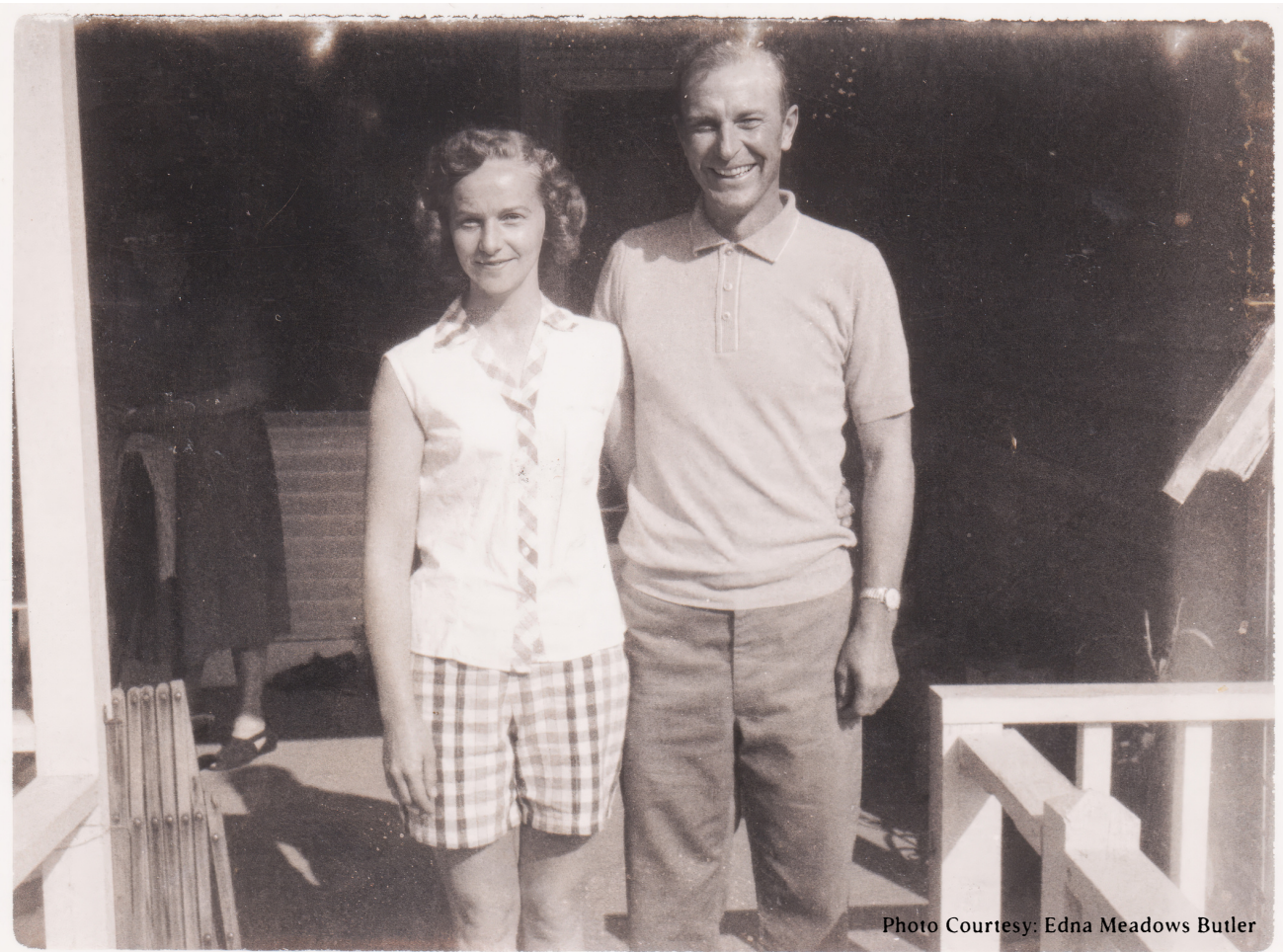


Photo Courtesy: Edna Meadows Butler

Barbara J. Cook & George L. Gibbs. Circa 1955



Sue Mueller Davis, Barbara Cook Gibbs, Judy Gibbs Rourke, George Gibbs
Roger Gibbs, Cathy Mueller Carlock



Sue Mueller, George Gibbs, Cathy Mueller and Roger Gibbs in lap



Sue and Cathy Mueller
and half brother Roger Gibbs



Roger Gibbs

DeKalb Pair on Coloradc Honeymoon

Honeymooning at Estes Park, Colo., and due back in DeKalb August 8 are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gene Gibbs. They have an apartment ready to move into when they return.

Margaret Alice McNamara became Mrs. Gibbs in a ceremony performed by Justice of Peace Arthur C. Taylor at Sycamore on July 30.

The couple was attended by Mr. and Mrs. George Gibbs. Mrs. Gibbs was wearing a street length dress of pink nylon net over matching taffeta. This was complemented by her carnation corsage.

The bride's dress was of ice blue nylon net over taffeta. Her corsage was in pink carnations. For traveling she changed to a white linen dress trimmed in black with which she chose white accessories.

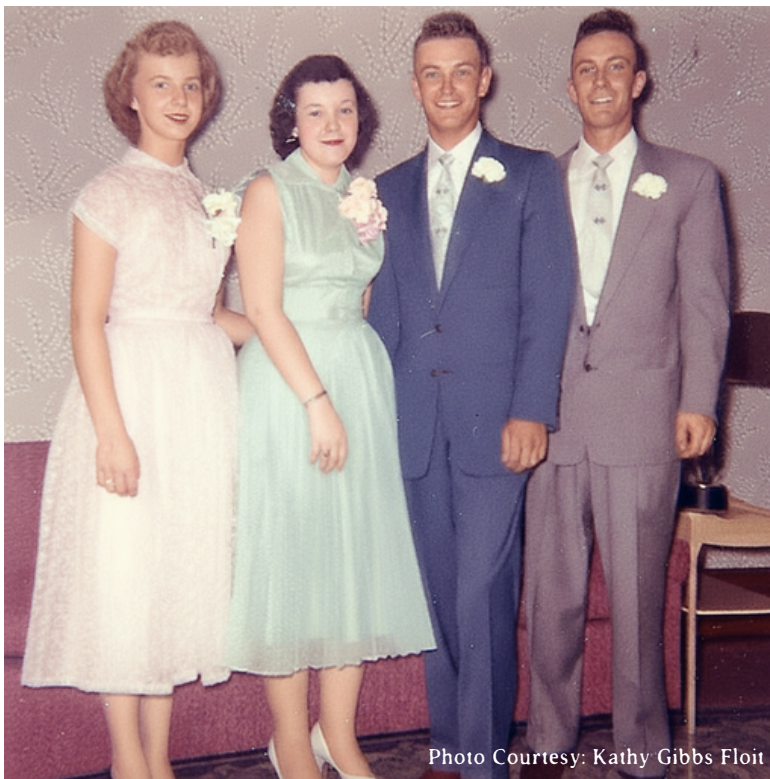
Mrs. Gibbs attended DeKalb schools, being a graduate of the high school. Her new husband was graduated from Harrisburg High School. She is employed at the DeKalb-Ogle Telephone Company. and he is a station attendant for the American Bulk Company.



Photo Courtesy: Kathy Gibbs Floit

Margaret McNamara & Bob Gibbs on their wedding day

The Daily Chronicle
DeKalb, Illinois August 6th 1955 Page 5



Left: Barbara Cook, Margaret McNamara,
Bob and George Gibbs

Photo Courtesy: Kathy Gibbs Floit



Photo Courtesy: Kathy Gibbs Floit

Bob, Margaret, Barb and George Gibbs, 1954



Burglars Take Six Hundred From Station

Thieves burglarized the Norman Oil Company gas station on Sycamore Road Tuesday night and escaped with a reported \$600 in currency.

Station Manager Robert Gibbs reported that the thieves broke a window to gain entry, and then chiseled through the safe door to the money.

Investigating Sheriff's deputy Robert Henigan said the thieves apparently took only the cash from the safe.



Norman Oil, E. Lincoln Highway, DeKalb Illinois



Above: George Gibbs on right
Below: George Gibbs on left
Others unknown

Photos Courtesy: Judy Gibbs Rourke



DeKalb damage

In DeKalb, the storm struck about the same time and lifted up a corner of the roof of the Norman service station on Sycamore Road.

The storm threw a scare into a station employe and sent him scurrying for a corner.

George Gibbs, 303½ Fisk Ave., said, "Something told me to get down." He said he was putting on rain clothes about 12:10 p.m., "But I didn't make it."

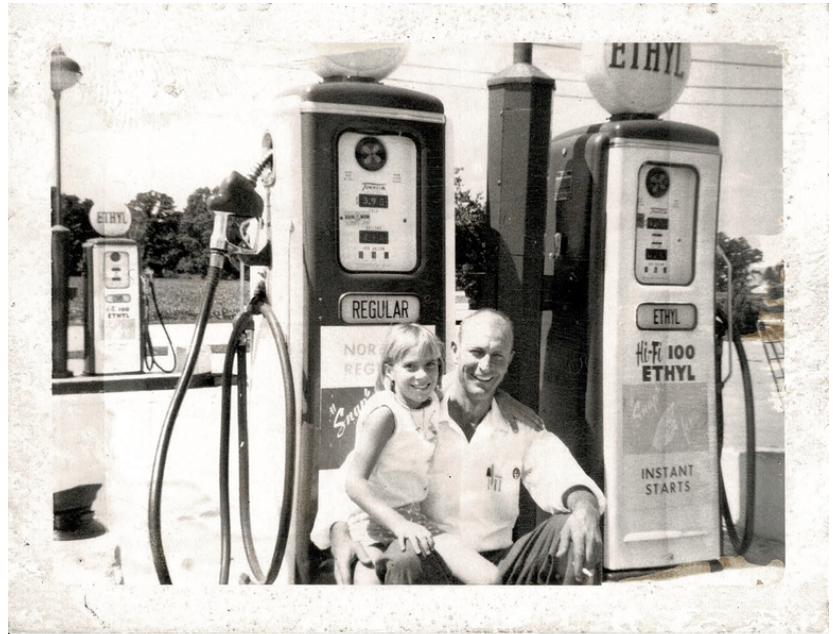
Gibbs, a co-manager of the station, said there was no warning. "It felt like it got windy, but I didn't look that much."

He added, "I got down in the corner and stayed there." Gibbs said both front doors to the station flew open and "That's probably what saved me."

The wind lifted up a rear corner of the building's roof and loosened the top row of cement blocks in the wall. The lights went out and electrical wires were disconnected. One wire connected to the roof was stretched about 15 inches.



George Gibbs
'I got down'



George with daughter Judy at Norman Oil
Gas Station, Sycamore Rd DeKalb

National Brand Merchandise
FREE
Norman Oil Offers You a Choice
of One of These Items—FREE!

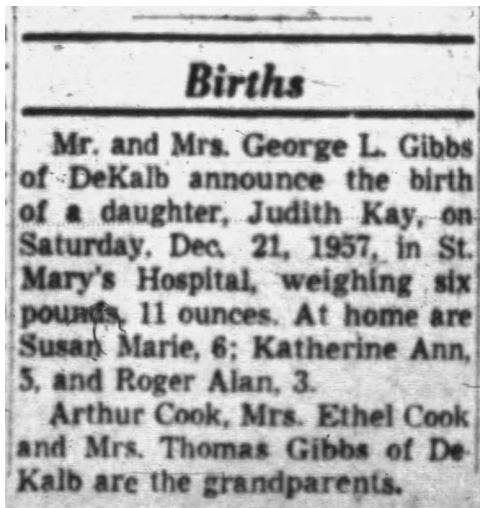
BUY	GET
\$1.00 in gas	1 Bar Ivory Soap
\$1.99 in gas	1 Box of Tide
8 gal. gas.	1 pr. Air Force Mittens
8 gal. gas.	1 Golden Pheasant Glass
8 gal. gas.	1 Beautiful Kitchen Towel

ALL ABOVE PLUS TOP VALUE STAMPS

FUEL OIL SPECIAL
(Limited Time)
No. 2 Fuel Oil, 150 gals. or more . . . 13½¢
No. 1 Fuel Oil, 150 gals. or more . . . 13.9¢
Cash on Delivery—No Stamps

**FINEST FROST FREE GASOLINES
NOW ON SALE
At Both Stations**

NORMAN OIL CO.
1206 East Lincoln Highway—DeKalb
North Sycamore Road—Sycamore



The Daily Chronicle
De Kalb, Illinois · December 23, 1957



Photo Courtesy: Kathy Gibbs Floit

Judy Gibbs Rourke & Roger Gibbs
with their father George Lincoln Gibbs, 1988



Photo Courtesy: Judy Gibbs Rourke

George & Judy, Fisk Ave, DeKalb



Photo Courtesy: Judy Gibbs Rourke

George with grandchildren Danny & Stephanie Rourke



Photo Courtesy: Judy Gibbs Rourke

Judy and George at Judy's daughter
Stephanie's Wedding



Photo Courtesy: Judy Gibbs Rourke

George Lincoln Gibbs, 79, of DeKalb, Ill., passed away Saturday, May 10, 2008, at Kishwaukee Community Hospital after a short illness. Born Jan. 24, 1929, in Harrisburg, he was the son of Thomas Wayne and Mary Gertrude (Mattingly) Gibbs. He married Barbara Jean Cook in 1954. She preceded him in death. George and his special partner, Betty Gaul, have shared their lives together for 41 years.

He attended school in Harrisburg and moved to DeKalb in 1949. George was a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served from 1951 to 1953 during the Korean War. George was employed by Norman Oil Company for 20 years, General Electric for a number of years and was a custodian at St. Mary's School for several years.

He enjoyed the outdoors, gardening, bicycling, crafts, woodworking, and repairing lawn mowers and bicycles. George enjoyed socializing with friends and going on little day outings. He loved watching the geese and ducks in the local ponds.

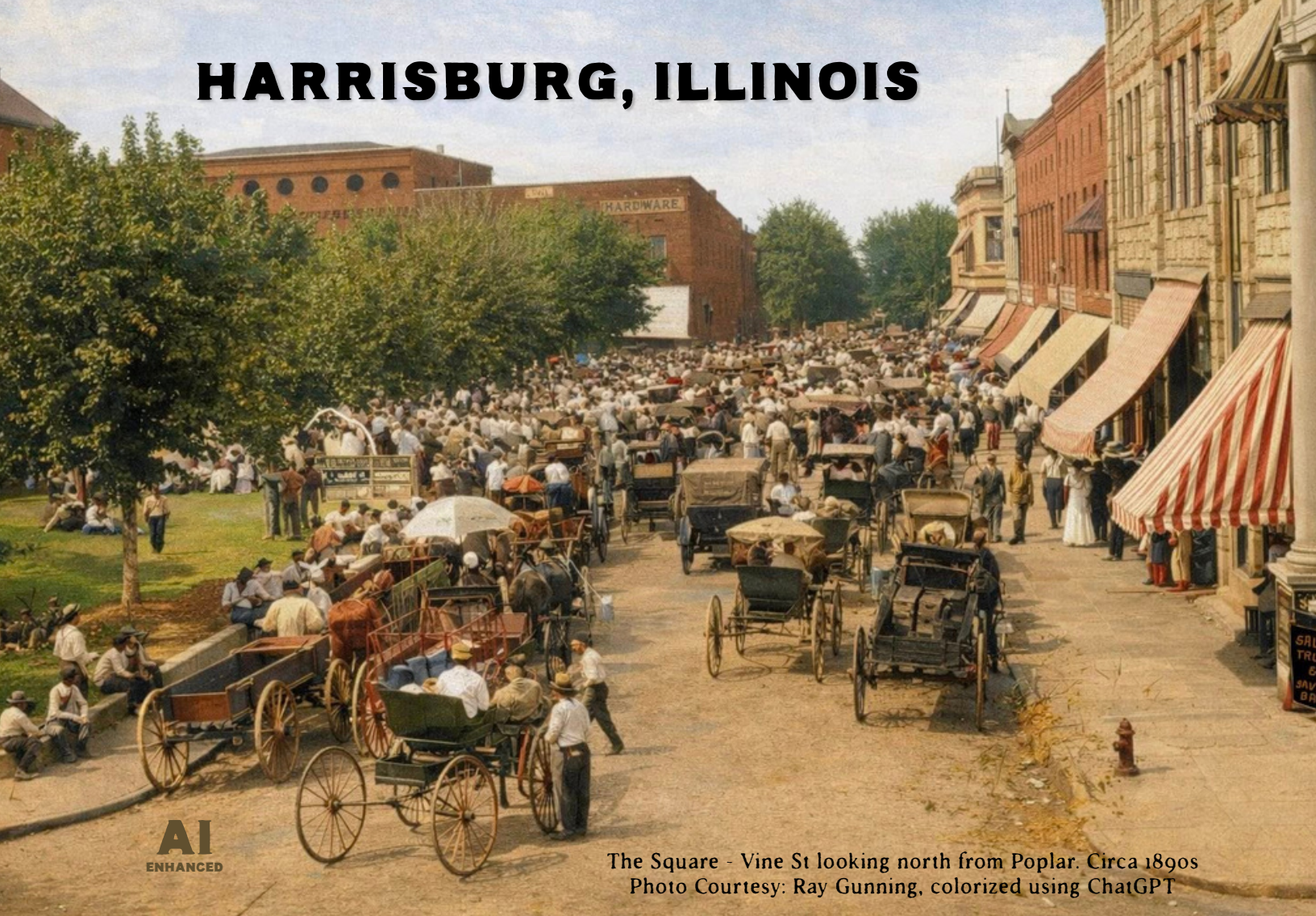
He is survived by his son, Roger (Laurie) Gibbs of Sycamore; his daughter, Judy (Dan) Rourke of DeKalb; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two stepdaughters, Sue Davis and Kathy Carlock ; his special partner, Betty Gaul, and her children, Deb (Dave) Angel, Donna (Dave) Foltz and Dale Gaul, all of DeKalb, and Darrell Gaul of Sycamore; Betty's four grandchildren and one great-grandson; a sister, Myrtle Wren of Pontiac, Mich.; seven brothers, Clarence Gibbs and Leonard (Doris) Gibbs of Pontiac, Mich., Robert (Margaret) Gibbs of DeKalb, Billy (Pat) Gibbs and Earl Gibbs of Mendota, Junior (Joanne) Gibbs of Carrier Mills, and Willis (Helen) Gibbs of Crossville, Tenn.; and several nieces and nephews, including Mark (Pat) Gibbs of Highland, Mich.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Iva Meadows; and three brothers, John, Challis and Matthew Gibbs.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, at Anderson Funeral Home, with the Rev. Jerry Ledbetter officiating. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. -1 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will follow services at Fairview Park Cemetery in DeKalb.



HARRISBURG, ILLINOIS



The Square - Vine St looking north from Poplar. Circa 1890s
Photo Courtesy: Ray Gunning, colorized using ChatGPT

Harrisburg, Illinois, the county seat of Saline County, has a rich and dynamic history shaped by coal mining, railroads, and economic shifts. Established in the early 19th century, Harrisburg experienced steady growth from the 1850s to the 1950s, transforming from a modest settlement into a vital industrial and commercial hub in southeastern Illinois.

During the 1850s, Harrisburg was a small but developing town within the newly formed Saline County, officially organized in 1847. The town's name was derived from John Harris, one of the early settlers and a key figure in the town's development.

At this time, agriculture was the primary economic driver, with settlers cultivating corn, wheat, and other crops while raising livestock.



Carrier Mills, January 1939

Harrisburg, 1910



Photo Courtesy: Ray Gunning



The arrival of the Civil War in the 1860s brought disruption but also economic stimulus, as demand for agricultural products increased. Following the war, Harrisburg began to develop more robust infrastructure, including roads, businesses, and schools. The introduction of railroads in the 1870s significantly impacted Harrisburg's growth. The Cairo and Vincennes Railroad, later absorbed into the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railway, provided a critical transportation link for local industries, facilitating the movement of coal, timber, and agricultural products.

By the late 19th century, coal mining had emerged as the dominant industry in Harrisburg and surrounding areas. The vast coal reserves beneath Saline County attracted mining companies and laborers, leading to an influx of workers and their families. The town saw a boom in population as mines were opened, and supporting industries such as blacksmithing, carpentry, and retail trade expanded. The construction of rail connections with larger cities like St. Louis and Chicago further boosted economic opportunities.

The early 20th century saw Harrisburg at the peak of its coal production. By the 1920s, the town had established itself as a significant mining center, with numerous mines operating in the region. However, labor conditions were often harsh, leading to the rise of labor unions and strikes advocating for workers' rights. The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) played a crucial role in securing better wages and working conditions for coal miners.

Despite its prosperity, Harrisburg faced challenges. The Great Flood of 1913 devastated parts of the town, disrupting daily life and industry. However, resilient residents rebuilt quickly, and the town continued to thrive. The 1920s also saw improvements in public infrastructure, including new schools, banks, and civic buildings, reflecting Harrisburg's status as an important regional center.

The Great Depression of the 1930s severely impacted Harrisburg, as the coal industry faced declining demand and widespread layoffs. Many families struggled with poverty, relying on subsistence farming and government relief programs. The New Deal initiatives, including the Works Progress Administration (WPA), provided much-needed jobs, funding public works projects such as road construction and building renovations.

World War II brought an economic resurgence, as coal production increased to support the war effort. Harrisburg's mines played a crucial role in supplying coal for steel production and energy needs. The town also contributed to the war effort through enlistments, with many local men serving in the military. Women took on new roles in factories and community organizations, supporting both their families and the broader war mobilization.

After the war, Harrisburg experienced economic and demographic shifts. The coal industry, though still significant, began to decline due to increased mechanization and competition from alternative energy sources. While mining jobs decreased, the town diversified its economy, with more emphasis on manufacturing and service industries.



Photos Courtesy: Ray Gunning



Harrisburg Laid Out As Town in Days of Civil War Crisis

*Originally published in 1947 in "The Saline County Historical Society presents
the Saline County centennial, 1847-1947"*

The city of Harrisburg had its beginning in a time of turmoil, incorporation taking place when there was much agitation in the county and an acute state of crisis throughout the nation. Forces and developments which had become impossible to check were pushing the country with steadily increasing momentum toward the abyss of Civil War into which it finally lurched on April 14, 1861. Purchase of the original townsite, consisting of the 20 acres between Gaskins and Elm and Jackson and Cherry streets, was authorized in 1852, following a meeting at Liberty Church, which was established in its present location southwest of Harrisburg in 1833. In the following year several buildings were erected on what is now the public square and in the middle of this block the first court house was built in 1858. It was replaced by the present building in 1905 and to that building an addition was built. W. A. McHaney, father of Mrs. Nelle Meyers and Mrs. C. F. McDowell of this city, was in the surveying party headed by Archibald Sloan which platted the town in 1853. J. O. Robinson became its first postmaster in 1856. By special charter the town was incorporated Feb. 21, 1861. The City Aldermanic form of government was adopted in 1889 and in 1915 the Commission form of government was adopted with O. M. Karraker as mayor. Its present population is 12,000 and its city officials are: Dr. H. J. Raley, mayor; Bluford Hetherington, Glenn Armistead, Earl Brannon and Earl Crabb, commissioners. As economic conditions made impractical the growing of cotton, tobacco and lumbering which pioneers found profitable, commercial mining, grain farming by crop rotation, dairying, reforestation, merchandising and manufacturing have occupied the people of this city. Its school system has grown from the one room building erected in 1858 at the corner of Vine and Church streets, to the present eight building system which includes Dorrisville, and the township high school. A radio station, WEBQ, operating since the early 1920's and the daily news paper, "The Daily Register," city and suburban bus service, afford citizens great convenience and service. Churches convenient to all residential districts, and two theatres invite them during their hours of leisure. Its churches include practically all denominations common to the area, and its improvements include constantly extending paving, sewerage, sanitation, and transportation. Privately owned airports adjacent to the city, a township park, promotion of a more adequate municipal water system from an artificial lake improved housing, and strip mining are progressive enterprises. These as much as the building of the railroads in the 70's and the sinking of deep mines in the late 80's and early 1900's, are chapters in a history of Harrisburg which has proved an enduring fitness to survive another century of growth in Saline county



"The Square" in Harrisburg, Illinois, centered around the Saline County Courthouse, has long served as the civic and commercial heart of the community. From the late nineteenth century into the twentieth, it functioned as a gathering place where residents conducted business, attended court, shopped at surrounding stores, and exchanged news. Lined with locally owned shops, offices, and meeting halls, the Square reflected the rhythms of small-town life in southern Illinois and provided a focal point for public events, political activity, and everyday social interaction that tied together the families of Harrisburg and the surrounding countryside.

Left: Harrisburg, Southeast corner of The Square. 1868

Below: The Square circa 1950s





INTRODUCTION TO THE COOKS

The Cook family of Illinois and Indiana traces its American roots to early pioneers who migrated westward from the eastern United States during the early-to-mid 19th century. Their presence in Bartholomew County, Indiana, predates their later settlement in multiple counties across northern and southern Illinois. This family history reflects the larger patterns of American expansion, agricultural settlement, and intergenerational migration in the post-Revolutionary era.

Bartholomew County, located in south-central Indiana, was organized in 1821, and early land and tax records indicate that members of the Cook family were present in the county by the 1830s. One of the earliest known patriarchs of this branch, John Cook, was born in Virginia about 1796 and brought his family into Indiana as new lands opened for settlement. Census and deed records from Bartholomew County show Cook family members engaged in farming and local commerce.

The 1850 U.S. Federal Census for Bartholomew County lists multiple Cook households, often headed by men born between 1790 and 1810, suggesting that several related or allied Cook families settled there simultaneously. Over time, younger generations began moving further west into Illinois, following agricultural opportunity and land availability. Several Cooks appear in migration paths heading toward both northern and southern parts of the state.

By the 1860s, members of the Cook family had established themselves in Muddy, Jasper County, Illinois, part of the state's southern region near the Wabash River. Jasper County, organized in 1831, was a magnet for settlers from Indiana and Kentucky.

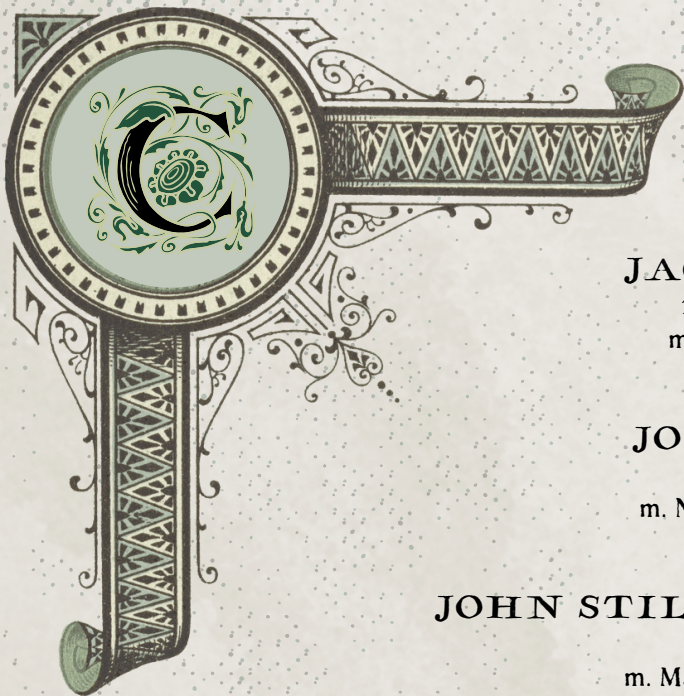
In Jasper County, the Cook family became associated with small-scale farming and rural life. Land records, marriage licenses, and probate files from Newton, the county seat, confirm the presence of Cook families across several townships. These records show intermarriage with other early-settler families, such as the Poores, Greens and Scammahorns. Many of these alliances reinforced community bonds and produced extended kinship networks throughout southeastern Illinois.

One key figure from this area was John Stiles Carter Cook, born on February 9th 1838 in Bartholomew County, Indiana, whose descendants remained in Jasper County and neighboring regions into the 20th century. Family records indicate strong participation in local churches, civic organizations, and military service, reflecting the Cooks' integration into rural Midwestern society.

While some Cooks moved south, others traveled northward and settled in LaSalle and DeKalb Counties in north-central Illinois. This area, closer to the expanding railroads and economic activity centered around Chicago, offered different opportunities. The earliest Cooks in LaSalle County appear in records from the mid-1800s, including tax rolls and agricultural schedules.

By the time the Cooks reached LaSalle County, they were typically landowners involved in mixed farming, with some later generations engaging in education, business, and politics. DeKalb County, just to the north, attracted our ancestors William Albert Cook and his son Arthur Raymond Cook Sr originally arriving in Paw Paw, Illinois around the 1920s. The Cook family's presence there is documented in census records and local histories, including references in township plat books and school rosters. Over time, members of the family moved between the two counties, indicating strong intra-regional ties.

By the early 20th century, Cook descendants in DeKalb were increasingly urbanized, working in schools, factories, and municipal positions, while others maintained family farms on the outskirts of towns like Sycamore and DeKalb. Local newspaper archives show marriages, obituaries, and social notices involving the Cook family present in DeKalb to this day.



COOK

PATERNAL LINEAGE

JACOB COOK

1770 – 1840
m. Barbara Hull



JOHN COOK

1796 – 1862
m. Nancy Ann Poore



JOHN STILES CARTER COOK

1838 – 1918
m. Mary Hannah Green



WILLIAM ALBERT COOK

1861 – 1942
m. Margaret "Maggie" Crisel



ARTHUR RAYMOND COOK

1907 – 1967
m. Ethel Bruce King



BARBARA JEAN COOK

1934 – 1989
m. George Lincoln Gibbs



A decorative border surrounds the central text. It consists of four corner squares and four side rectangles. The corner squares feature a complex interlocking knot pattern in gold on a green background. The side rectangles feature a repeating floral and foliate pattern in gold on a green background. The entire border is framed by a thin gold line.

CHAPTER 8

BARBARA J.
COOK



Barbara Jean Cook was born on November 20, 1934, in DeKalb, Illinois, during the heart of the Great Depression. She grew up in DeKalb in a close-knit Midwestern community and remained deeply rooted there throughout her life Barbara Jean Cook

Barbara married young, as many women of her generation did. Her first marriage was to **Charles N. "Chuck" Mueller**, and together they had two daughters, **Susan Marie "Sue" Mueller** and **Cathy Mueller**. The marriage ended when Barbara filed for divorce on the grounds of cruelty, with the divorce decree issued on April 24, 1953. Barbara retained custody of her daughters, whom she continued to raise in DeKalb.

In February 1954, Barbara married **George Lincoln Gibbs**. Their son, **Roger Allen Gibbs**, was born on April 9, 1954, followed by a daughter, **Judith K. "Judy" Gibbs**, born in 1957. Barbara worked at the General Electric factory in DeKalb, contributing to her household while balancing the demands of raising a growing family.

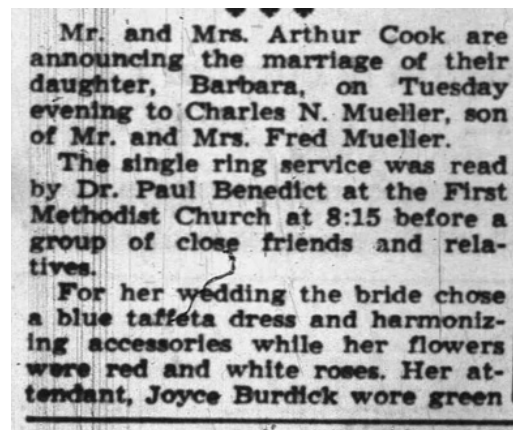
Barbara also possessed a creative side that found expression through music. She enjoyed writing country songs, often collaborating with George and her close friend Charlotte. Family members later recalled that she occasionally wrote songs with her son Roger as well. Several of the compositions with George were recorded on tape, though the recordings have since been lost.

The songwriting reflects a personal and artistic dimension of Barbara's life that might otherwise have gone unrecorded.

Barbara's marriage to George ended in divorce, with the decree issued in September 1967. After the divorce, custody arrangements placed Roger and Judy initially with their father, while Sue and Cathy remained with Barbara. Roger later joined his mother and sisters.

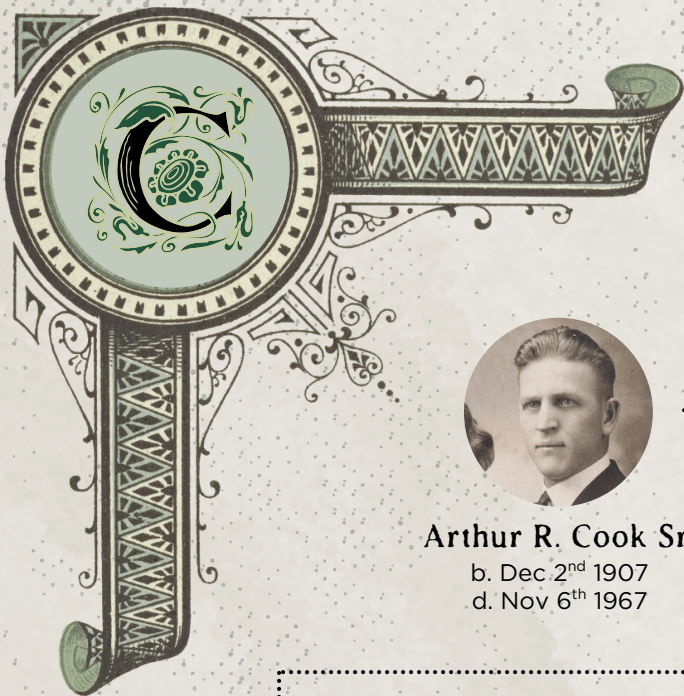
Barbara was a homebody by nature and preferred the comfort of familiar surroundings to social outings. Some of her most enduring family memories were formed during quiet Friday evenings spent in her backyard. As a young child, I remember sitting at the picnic table with a Happy Meal while Barbara, my father, his sister Cathy, and other family members shared a beer and talked late into the evening. These informal gatherings reflected her preference for simple routines and close family companionship. She was also remembered for her oatmeal raisin cookies, which became a small but cherished tradition among her family.

Despite her preference for home life, Barbara also possessed a lively and playful personality. Her grandchildren through her daughter Cathy gave her the affectionate nickname "Hot Rod Granny" for her "lead foot". She was also known for her sense of humor and mischievous streak. Her granddaughter Tama Collins-Carlock recalled of times when Barbara would playfully roll down her car window to whistle at a passing pedestrian and teasingly suggesting that her daughter Cathy was responsible. These moments left a lasting impression on her grandchildren and reflected the humor and liveliness that coexisted with her otherwise quiet lifestyle.



The Daily Chronicle
De Kalb, Illinois • Fri, Sep 29, 1950 Page 5





Arthur R. Cook Sr.

b. Dec 2nd 1907
d. Nov 6th 1967



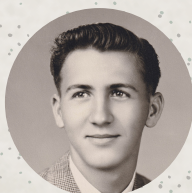
Ethel B. King

b. Jan 7th 1907
d. Aug 29th 1979



Arthur R. "Sonny" Cook Jr.

b. Feb 24th 1929
d. Jan 6th 2010
m. Marjorie Reynolds



Donald Cook

b. May 7th 1931
d. Dec 4th 2017
m. Donna Mae Johnson



Barbara J. Cook

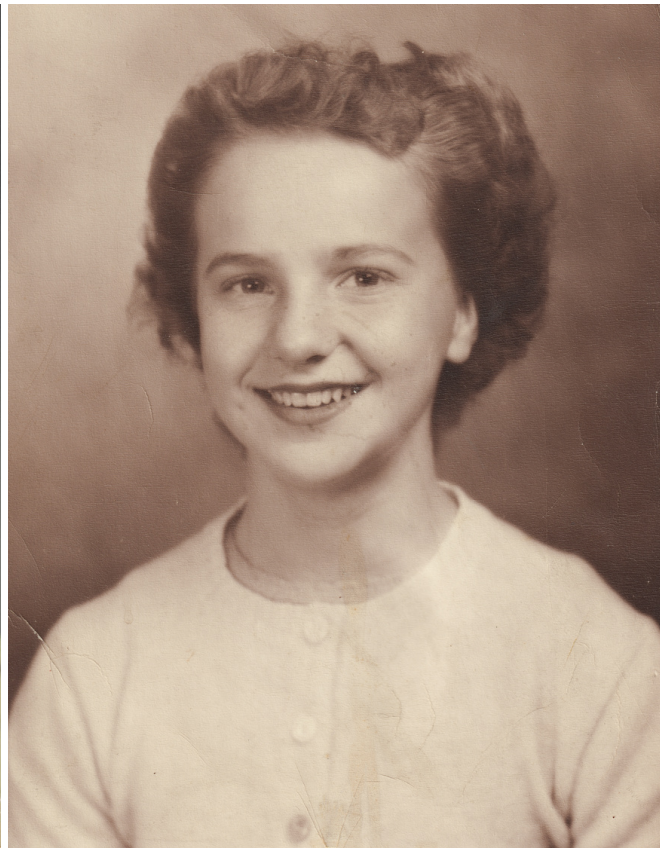
b. Nov 20th 1934
d. Dec 15th 1989
m. Charles Mueller & George
Lincoln Gibbs

Cynthia Cook Thompson
Janet Cook Mershon
Brian Cook
Melissa Cook Maeder
Karen Cook Lindeman
Debbie Cook Turner

Dean Cook
Daryl Cook
Duane Cook

Sue Mueller Davis
Cathy Mueller Carlock
Roger Gibbs
Judy Gibbs Rourke





Barbara Jean Cook



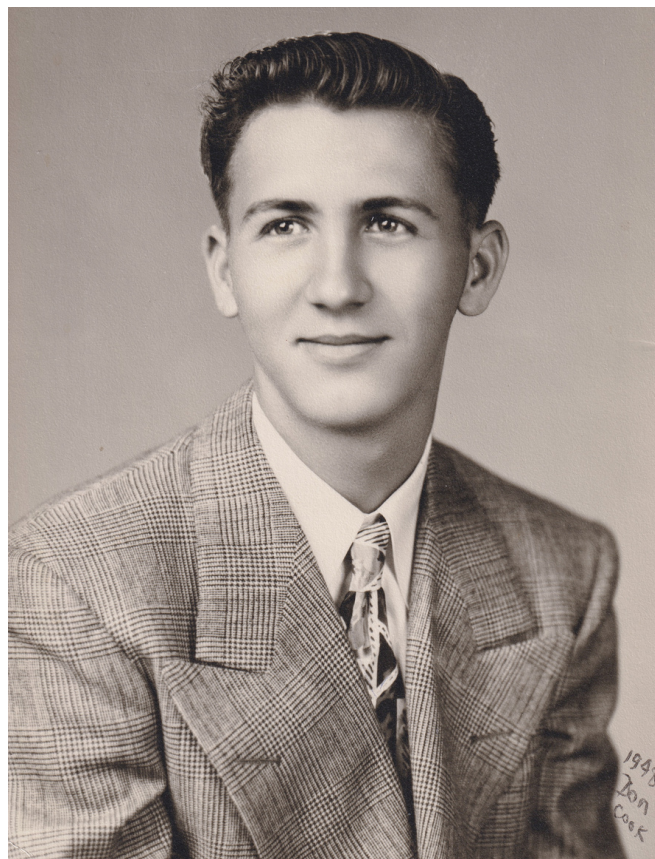
Arthur Jr, Barbara and Donnie Cook



Arthur Cook Sr, Ethel (King) Cook, Donnie Cook, Arthur "Sonny" Cook Jr



Arthur "Sonny" Cook Jr
with wife Marjorie Reynolds



Donnie Cook



Barbara Jean Cook
1934 - 1989



Barbara's residence, located at 921 East Lincoln Highway in DeKalb, was sold following her death. The structure was subsequently demolished, and the property was redeveloped as a parking lot.



Barbara Jean Cook



Sue, Roger and Cathy



Sue, Roger and Cathy



Cathy Mueller, Roger Gibbs and Sue Mueller



294 Roger Gibbs and Barbara Cook



Sue & Cathy Mueller



Roger A. Gibbs, Circa 1973



Roger A. Gibbs



Sue Mueller, Judy Gibbs, Kathy Mueller and Roger Gibbs, Circa 1958



Sue, Barb, Cathy
and Roger



Barbara Cook at my maternal grandmother, Mary Jane's, house



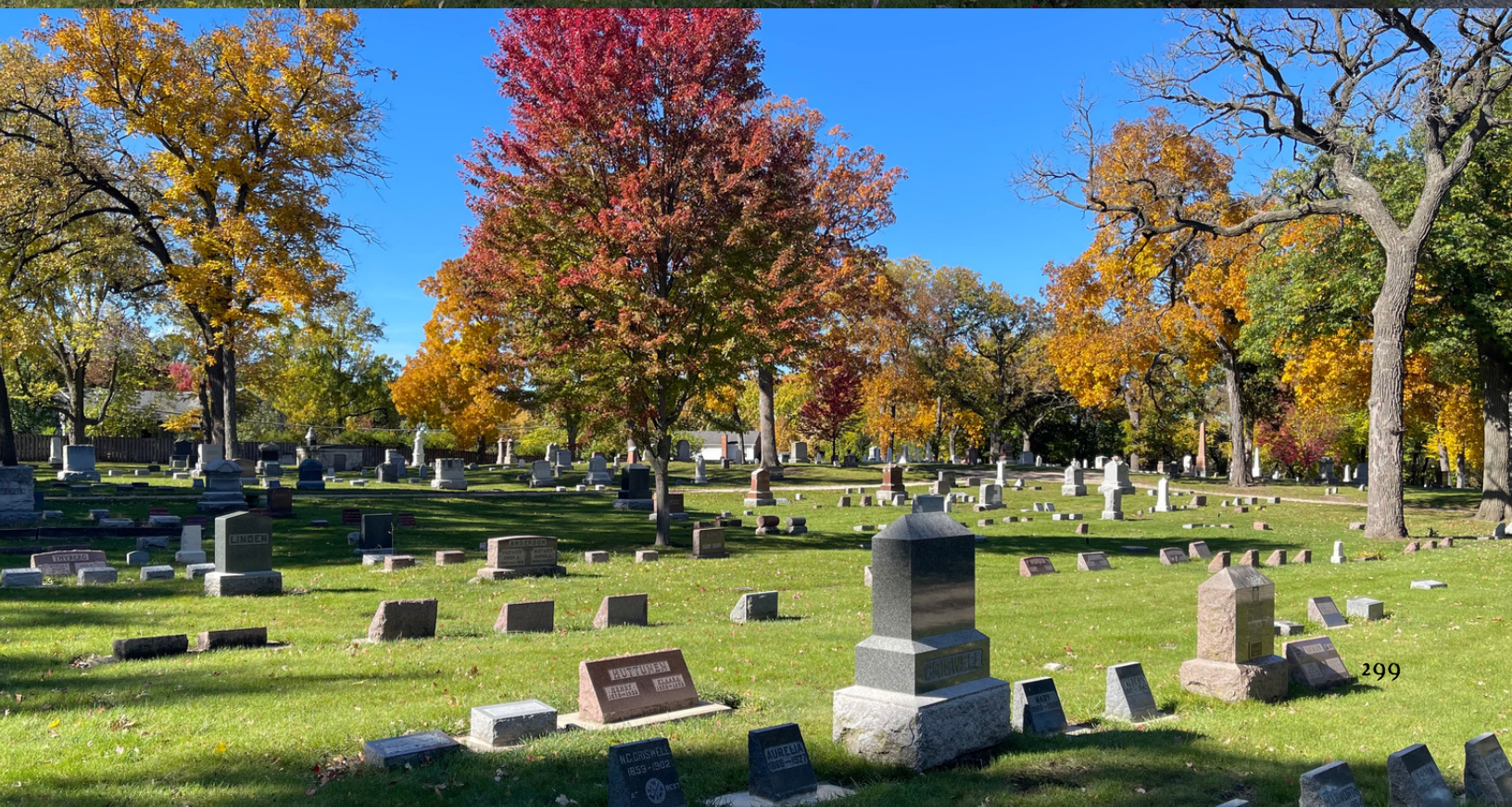
Roger Gibbs (Center) with wife Laurie Redmer (left)
and mother Barbara Cook Gibbs (right)

Right: Barbara
Cook Gibbs'
Oatmeal Raisin
Cookie recipe,
handwritten by
her daughter-in-
law, Laurie
Redmer Gibbs.

Oatmeal Raisin Cookies
 1 C. Sugar
 1 C. Butter
 2 Beaten eggs
 2 C. flour sifted
 2 C. Oatmeal
 1 C. Raisens
 1 teaspoon Baking Soda
 5 tablespoons Raisin water
 Cream Sugar & Shortening
 untill fluffy. Add Eggs
 & beat untill well mixed.
 Add Sifted flour, cold
 Oatmeal, cold Raisen water
 mixed with baking soda.



Fairview Cemetery
DeKalb, Illinois



In her later years, after her children were grown, Barbara's daily life grew quieter and more centered around home. Family members remembered her deep companionship with her dog, Abe, who became her constant presence. She taught him to bat a balloon back and forth with her, and the two reportedly spent long stretches playing together⁸ in this simple but affectionate ritual. Abe was protective and wary of strangers but loyal to those he knew. Barbara's attachment to him remained strong until her death, and he was ultimately buried with her—a quiet testament to the companionship that marked her later life.

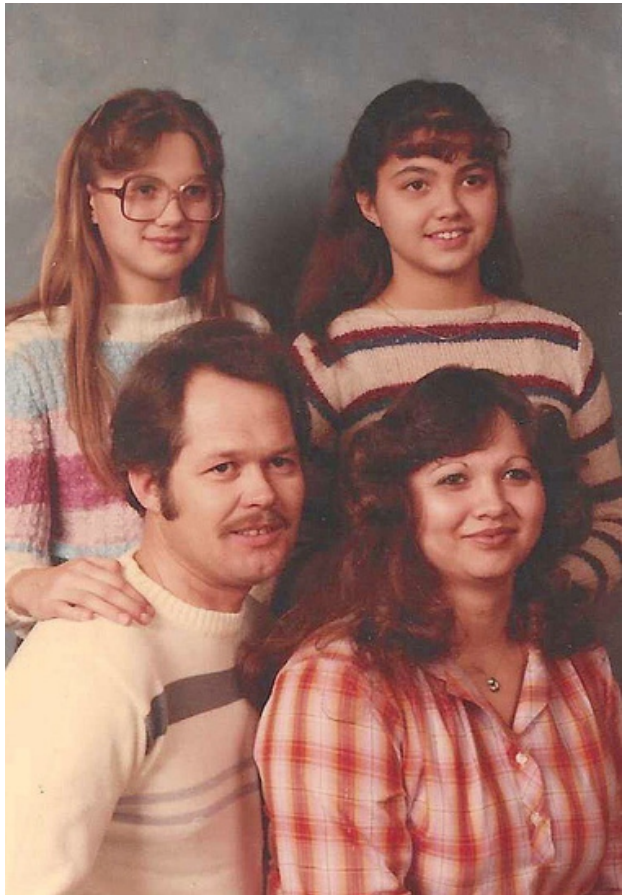
Barbara passed away on December 15, 1989, at the age of fifty-five after battling lung cancer. Her life was shaped by steady work, long-standing roots in DeKalb, creative expression, humor, and the familiar rhythms of home life remembered by those who knew her.



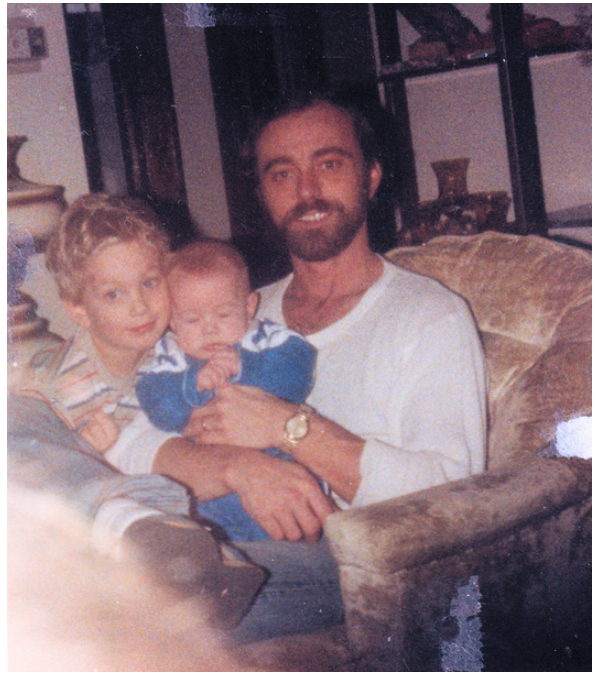
Barbara's dog, Abe



Fairview Cemetery
DeKalb, Illinois



Rhonda, Tina, Bobby and Sue (Mueller) Davis



Derek, Josh, and Roger Gibbs, 1986



Left to right: Carrie Carlock (daughter of Cathy)
Sue Mueller Davis, & Cathy Mueller Carlock. 2016



Dan Sr., Judy (Gibbs), Dan Jr. and Stephanie Rourke
1988



Cathy Mueller Carlock & Randy Carlock

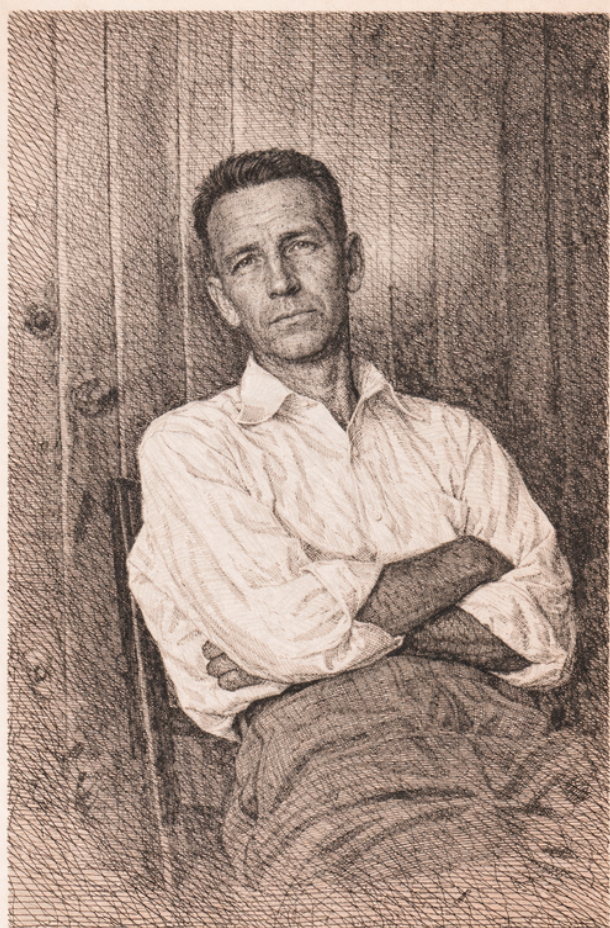
A decorative border surrounds the central text. It consists of four corner squares and four side rectangles. The corner squares feature a complex interlocking knot design in white on a green background, with a small flower in the center. The side rectangles feature a repeating floral and foliate pattern in white on a green background. The entire border is framed by a thin gold line.

CHAPTER 9

ARTHUR & ETHEL
COOK



Arthur Raymond Cook was born on December 2, 1907, in Jasper County, Illinois, the son of **William Albert Cook** and **Margaret “Maggie” Crisel**. His life unfolded almost entirely in DeKalb County and coincided with some of the most turbulent decades in American history. Unlike his grandfather, whose adulthood was shaped by landownership, or his father, whose life was defined by rural wage labor, Arthur came of age during the Great Depression, navigating survival through informal work, industrial employment, and shifting social conditions.



In the 1930 U.S. Federal Census, Arthur was enumerated in the village of Shabbona, Illinois, with his occupation listed as “junk dealer—own account.” Though modest in description, this designation reflected a complex and adaptive form of labor common during the early Depression years. Junk dealers traveled rural roads purchasing scrap metal, rags, worn machinery, rubber, paper, and discarded household goods from farmers desperate for cash. Arthur’s work placed him squarely within this informal survival economy, converting castoffs into resale materials for scrap buyers and foundries at a time when traditional employment was scarce.



Main Street, Shabbona, Ill.

Circa 1920s

In the 1920s, Shabbona was a stable agricultural village in rural DeKalb County, closely tied to the surrounding farms that produced corn, small grains, dairy, and livestock. The village functioned as a local service center, with a grain elevator, general stores, repair shops, and the railroad providing a vital link to larger markets in DeKalb and Chicago. Life in Shabbona reflected the cautious prosperity of the decade: families invested in farm improvements when possible, children attended well-supported local schools, and churches and fraternal organizations formed the backbone of social life. While mechanization and improved transportation slowly changed daily routines, the community remained firmly rooted in traditional rural values and close-knit relationships.

The onset of the Great Depression in the 1930s brought sharp economic strain, but Shabbona responded with resilience and adaptability. Falling crop prices and farm foreclosures forced many families to economize, repair rather than replace equipment, and supplement income through odd jobs, salvage work, or shared labor. New Deal programs offered limited relief through road construction, conservation projects, and other public works, easing the worst hardships for some residents. Throughout both decades, Shabbona's churches, schools, and informal social networks helped sustain morale, illustrating how small Midwestern communities endured dramatic national change through cooperation, thrift, and mutual support.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930
POPULATION SCHEDULE

Enumeration District No. 19-32

Sheet No.

39

Supervisor's District No. 94 A 9751

Institution _____
 (Insert name of institution, if any, and indicate the lines on which the entries are made. See instructions.)

Enumerated by me on April 5, 1930, Mrs. Jessie Deane, Enumerator.

PLACE OF BIRTH			MOTHER TONGUE (OR NATIVE LANGUAGE) OF FOREIGN BORN			CITIZENSHIP, ETC.			OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY			EMPLOYMENT		VETERANS		Number of family
FATHER	MOTHER	Language spoken in home before coming to the United States	CODE (For office use only. Do not write in these columns)	Year of immigration to the United States	Naturalization	Whether able to speak English	OCCUPATION Trade, profession, or particular kind of work, as spinner, salesman, rigger, teacher, etc.	INDUSTRY Industry or business, as cotton mill, dry-goods store, shipyard, public school, etc.	CODE (For office use only. Do not write in this column)	Class of worker	Whether actually at work yesterday (or the last regular working day)	Yes or No	If not, line number on Unemployment Schedule	Whether a veteran of U. S. military or naval forces	What war or expedition?	
19	20	21	A B C	22	23	24	25	26	D	27	28	29	30	31	32	
Illinois	Illinois		61				none								1	
Norway	Norway		61	05	0		none							No	2	
Norway	Norway	Norwegian	05	05	V	1868	yes	none							3	
Norway	Norway		61	05	0		none								4	
Norway	Norway	Norwegian	05	05	V	1903	yes	Pastry Baker	Own place	WWW	yes				5	
Indiana	Norway		61	05	2		none								6	
Indiana	Norway		61	05	2		none								7	
Illinois	Illinois		61				yes	Junk Dealer	Own place	7491	yes			No	8	
Kentucky	Kentucky		80				yes	none							9	
Illinois	Kentucky		61				none								10	
Illinois	Illinois		61				yes	none							11	
Norway	Norway	Norwegian	05	05	V	1924	yes	Carpenter	Building House	OK	yes			No	12	
Norway	Norway	Norwegian	05	05	V	1929	yes	none							13	
Norway	Norway	Norwegian	05	05	V	1929	yes	none							14	
Norway	Norway	Norwegian	05	05	V	1929	yes	Farmer	Own farm	WWW	yes			No	15	
Norway	Norway	Norwegian	05	05	V	1929	yes	none							16	
Norway	Norway	Norwegian	05	05	V	1929	yes	none							17	
Norway	Norway	Norwegian	05	05	V	1929	yes	none							18	
Norway	Norway	Norwegian	05	05	V	1929	yes	none						No	19	
Mexico	Mexico													No	20	
Mexico	Mexico													No	21	
Mexico	Mexico													No	22	
Norway	Norway	Norwegian	05	05	V	1929	yes	none						No	23	
Norway	Norway	Norwegian	05	05	V	1929	yes	none						No	24	
New York	New York													No	25	
New York	New York													No	26	
Wisconsin	Wisconsin														27	
Germany	Germany													No	28	
England	England													No	29	
Norway	Norway	Norwegian	05	05	V	1889	yes	none						No	30	
Norway	Norway	Norwegian	05	05	V	1889	yes	none						No	31	
Norway	Norway	Norwegian	05	05	V	1889	yes	none						No	32	
Norway	Norway	Norwegian	05	05	V	1889	yes	none						No	33	
England	England													No	34	
Germany	Germany													No	35	
Illinois	Illinois													No	36	
Kentucky	Kentucky														37	
Illinois	Illinois		61				none								38	
Illinois	Illinois		61				none								39	
Illinois	Illinois		61				none								40	
Norway	Norway	Norwegian	05	05	V	1889	yes	Section Hand	Stein Road	7877	yes			No	41	
Norway	Norway	Norwegian	05	05	V	1889	yes	none							42	
Norway	Norway	Norwegian	05	05	V	1889	yes	none							43	
Norway	Norway	Norwegian	05	05	V	1889	yes	none							44	
Illinois	Illinois		61	04	1		yes	Farmer	Farm	WWW	yes			No	45	
Illinois	Illinois		61				yes	none							46	
Illinois	Illinois		61				yes	Servant	Farm	9596	yes			No	47	
Illinois	Illinois		61				yes	Teacher	Public School	9494	yes				48	
Illinois	Illinois		61				yes	Teacher	Public School	9494	yes				49	
Illinois	Illinois		61				yes	Teacher	Public School	9494	yes				50	

Socially, Arthur was woven into the fabric of Shabbona life. He was one of those indispensable figures who knew every back road, every farmer, every barn loft, every attics' forgotten contents. He came to be seen not as a man surrounded by junk, but as someone who made use of it, who saw value where others saw burden. His work required negotiation, trust, patience, and the ability to judge the worth of objects and the temperament of their owners. In a period when many felt powerless against the downward slide of national economics, Arthur's occupation allowed him a measure of independence—his livelihood not wholly dictated by wages, employers, or markets.

Being a junk dealer at the dawn of the Depression was not merely an occupation; it was a survival strategy, an entrepreneurial adaptation to hardship. Arthur Cook Sr. became one of the small but vital agents of community sustainability—the man who hauled away the unusable, paid cash when cash was rare, and kept the quiet commerce of recycling moving at a time when new goods grew scarce and every penny mattered.

ENTRIES ARE REQUIRED IN THE SEVERAL COLUMNS AS FOLLOWS:

Cols. 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, and 25—For all persons.
 Cols. 7, 8, 9, and 10—For heads of families only. (Col. 8 requires no entry for a farm family.)
 Col. 15—For married persons only.
 Col. 17—For all persons 10 years of age and over.

Cols. 21, 22, and 23—For all foreign-born persons.
 Col. 24—For all persons 10 years of age and over.
 Cols. 26, 27, and 28—For all persons for whom an occupation is reported in Col. 25.
 Col. 30—For all males 11 years of age and over.



Arthur Jr, Arthur Sr. Barbara and Donnie Cook abt 1941



Arthur Jr, Ethel. Barbara and Donnie Cook abt 1941



Ethel King & Arthur Cook Sr.

It was during this period of economic strain that Arthur became involved in a serious legal episode. In February 1931, Arthur Cook Sr. was among five men indicted by a DeKalb County grand jury for a series of burglaries and acts of larceny involving the oil station of **Clarence B. Craft** in Shabbona. The defendants—Arthur Cook Sr., **Robert Nepean**, **Mark Braffet**, **Ernest Hickerson**, and **Hughie King**—were accused of breaking into the station multiple times in December 1930 and stealing tools, cigarettes, candy, lighters, electric appliances, and other merchandise. Court records show that Arthur and others petitioned for probation, supported by testimony regarding their employment histories, family responsibilities, and lack of prior criminal records. While prosecutors objected to leniency, Arthur ultimately served time in the Sycamore jail and was released in the spring of 1931.

Later oral history offers additional perspective on these events. **Paul King**, son of Hughie King, recalled that his father later described the burglaries as “how they ate” during the Depression. While this recollection does not diminish the seriousness of the crimes, it reflects the level of desperation faced by many working-class men whose economic options had narrowed to survival rather than advancement.

13801

PROBATION OFFICER'S FIRST REPORT TO JUDGE

TO THE HONORABLE John K. Newhall JUDGE

OF THE Circuit COURT OF DeKalb COUNTY IN THE STATE

OF ILLINOIS.

The undersigned Julius E. Matteson

probation officer in the above named County and State respectfully reports to your honor that he has investigated the case of Arthur Cook

who is an applicant for admission to probation, and has found the following facts:

That prior to the commission of the offense of which said applicant was convicted he was a person of good habits good associations and good conduct. That said applicant has dependent upon him for support, maintenance and education (1): his wife, Ethel Cook and his child Arthur Ray Cook, who was born on February 24, 1929 and a boy who has not yet been christened, born on March 1st, 1931; that said Arthur Cook has resided with his wife and child and has supported them to the best of his ability; that the mother and father of said Arthur Cook are both alive, but are separated from each other; that neither the father or mother have any property;

That upon the hearing before the undersigned there appeared four reputable citizens of the Village of Shabbona who gave testimony that the said Arthur Cook, who is now 22 years of age, had good habits, good associated and very good conduct prior to the time that he committed the offense on which he was indicted; that all of said witnesses gave as their opinion that the said Arthur Cook should be given another opportunity to make good and that they all believed that there were reasonable grounds to expect that the said defendant might be reformed if placed on probation and that the interests of justice would be subserved if probation was granted to the said Arthur Cook; that said Arthur Cook was never convicted of a crime or misdemeanor before on any charge and has never been previously placed on probation in any court; that said Arthur Cook attended the schools in the Village of Shabbona.

The undersigned further reports that after full and complete hearing before him at which time testimony was heard on the part of the applicant and the state and upon full consideration of all the testimony, facts and circumstances in evidence, the undersigned reports that there is reasonable ground to expect that the defendant may be reformed and that the interests of society shall be subserved if the defendant Arthur Cook is placed upon probation and therefore respectfully recommends to the court that said Arthur Cook be admitted to probation according to the statutes in such case made and provided.

Julius E. Matteson
Probation Officer

(1) Here insert names of wife, children, parents and other relatives with their several ages and also their several condition.

(2) Insert any other facts as may aid the Court in determining the propriety of probation, and especially whether, so far as you know, applicant has ever been convicted of any offense.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, } ss.
DeKalb County,

The People of the State of Illinois to the Sheriff, Coroner or any Constable of DeKalb County,

GREETING:

We Command You, That you take the bodies of Arthur Cook, Robert Nepean,

Mark Braffett and Ernest Hickerson

.....if ~~t~~ he~~y~~ shall be found in your County,
and safely ~~them~~ keep, so that ~~t~~ he~~y~~ be and appear forthwith before the Circuit Court of
said County now holden at the Court House in Sycamore, in said County, to answer unto a certain bill
of Indictment preferred against ~~them~~ in said courtand have you then and
there this Writ with an endorsement hereon, as to the manner in which you shall have executed the same.

Witness, GEO. A. JAMES, Clerk of said Court, and the seal
thereof, at his office in Sycamore, in said county, this

.....23rd day of February..... A. D. 1931.

Geo. A. James.....Clerk.

The court, led by Judge William J. Fulton, ultimately granted probation to Cook and Nepean, noting that their offenses were eligible under Illinois' 1911 probation statute. The judge found reasonable grounds to believe that the men could be reformed and that the interests of society would be better served by probation. Conditions of their release included monthly reporting, restrictions on travel outside Illinois, and compliance with state laws. Hughie King also petitioned for probation and was granted it under similar terms.

BULLETIN

Arthur Cook, Dewey King and Robert Nepean were this afternoon sentenced to 70 days in the county jail on charges of larceny. The boys have already served 50 days and that time combined with the 70 assessed today make a penalty sufficient for the crime. The petition for parole will be heard at the end of the 70 day sentence.

The Daily Chronicle

De Kalb, Illinois • Mon, Mar 9, 1931 Page 1

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
County of DeKalb, } ss. Of the February Term of the
DeKalb County Circuit Court, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred
and Thirty-one.

THE GRAND JURORS chosen, selected and sworn, in and for the County of DeKalb in the State of Illinois, in the name and by the authority of the People of the State of Illinois, upon their oaths, present:

That Arthur Cook, Robert Nepean, Mark Braffett and Ernest

Hickerson

late of the said County of DeKalb and State aforesaid, on the 26th day of

December in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred
and Thirty at and within the County of DeKalb and State of Illinois aforesaid,

feloniously, burglariously, willfully, maliciously and forcibly
did break and enter a certain building, to-wit: the oil station
of Clarence B. Craft, there situate in the village of Shabbona,
with intent the personal goods, chattels, money and property of
the said Clarence B. Craft, in the said certain building, to-wit:
the oil station of the said Clarence B. Craft, in the village of
Shabbona then and there being, then and there feloniously and
burglariously to steal, take and carry away,

CASTLE MAY GET TRIALS

States Attorney Faces Duty of Jury Prosecution And Is Preparing

After the colling of the docket, in which approximately 30 civil cases were set for trial, Judge John K. Newhall of Aurora, adjourned court at 4:00 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and ordered it convened again tomorrow.

At tomorrow morning's session a hearing will be held before DeKalb county's probation officer, Julius Matteson, in regard to pleas for probation entered by Arthur Cook, Hughie King, and Robert Nepean. These three pleaded guilty to indictments charging them with burglary and larceny. They immediately entered pleas for probation. All have attorneys. Attorney L. F. Moudry of Sycamore is representing both Nepean and Cook. A. G. Kennedy is representing King.

The Daily Chronicle

De Kalb, Illinois • Thu, Feb 26, 1931 Page 1

Three Seeking Probation Are Given Hearing

Three DeKalb lads, Robert Nepean, Arthur Cook and Hughie King, arrested a few weeks ago in connection with several thefts, were today given hearings on their pleas to be placed on probation. Last Monday the three pleaded guilty, in the DeKalb county circuit court, to several robberies.

Probation Officer Julius Matteson of this city heard the testimony this morning in behalf of the three youths, the session being held in the county court chambers. Ten or more witnesses testified as to the character of the three lads before the present trouble. Witnesses for the state, introduced to show that the lads should not be given probation, were to be heard this afternoon, indications being that a decision would not be reached until sometime Saturday.

The Daily Chronicle

De Kalb, Illinois • Fri, Feb 27, 1931 Page 1

AND THE GRAND JURORS aforesaid, chosen, selected and sworn, in and for the County of DeKalb in the State of Illinois aforesaid, in the name and by the authority of the People of the State of Illinois aforesaid, upon their oaths aforesaid, do further present that the said Arthur Cook,

Robert Nepean, Mark Braffett and Ernest Hickerson

late of the said County of DeKalb and State aforesaid, on the 26th day of

December in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred
and Thirty at and within the County of DeKalb in the State of Illinois aforesaid.

feloniously, burglariously, willfully, maliciously and forcibly
did break and enter a certain building, to-wit: the oil station
of Clarence B. Craft, there situate in the village of Shabbona,
with intent the personal goods, chattels, money and property of
the said Clarence B. Craft, in the certain building, to-wit: the
oil station of the said Clarence B. Craft, situate in the village
of Shabbona then and there being, then and there feloniously,
burglariously to steal, take and carry away certain blankets,
tools, cigar lighters, match vending machine, electric toaster,
candy, tobacco, cigars and cigarettes, ash trays, oil, flash
lights, of the value in the aggregate of One Hundred Dollars
(\$100.00) of the goods, chattels and personal property of the
said Clarence B. Craft, in the certain building, to-wit: the oil
station of the said Clarence B. Craft, situate in the village of
Shabbona then and there being, did feloniously and burglariously
steal, take and carry away,

PROBATION DRAWS FIRE

Prosecutor Castle Shows Dis- gust Over The Probation Hearings

DeKalb County Probation Officer, Julius Matteson of DeKalb, entered a recommendation for probation after hearing the evidence for and against the pleas made by Robert Nepean, Arthur Cook, and Hughie King, yesterday. A petition for such recommendation will be placed before the circuit court at its earliest session. The three had pleaded guilty to burglary and larceny.

State's Attorney Latham Castle stated emphatically that he would enter a drastic objection to the hearing, adding that he believed such hearings to be a waste of time. While he does not believe the three defendants in this matter are hardened criminals, and that they may not deserve a heavy sentence, nevertheless he does believe that the boys realized that they were doing wrong, and since they pleaded guilty to the charges of the indictment, admitting their guilt, they should be punished.

In the prosecutor's estimation it is not justice that one man should be sentenced and serve his time and another go free through probation. He states further that in going over past records in this county it has proven that pleas for probation have always been granted, that therefore it is a waste of time and the county's money to hold such hearings.

Many Testify

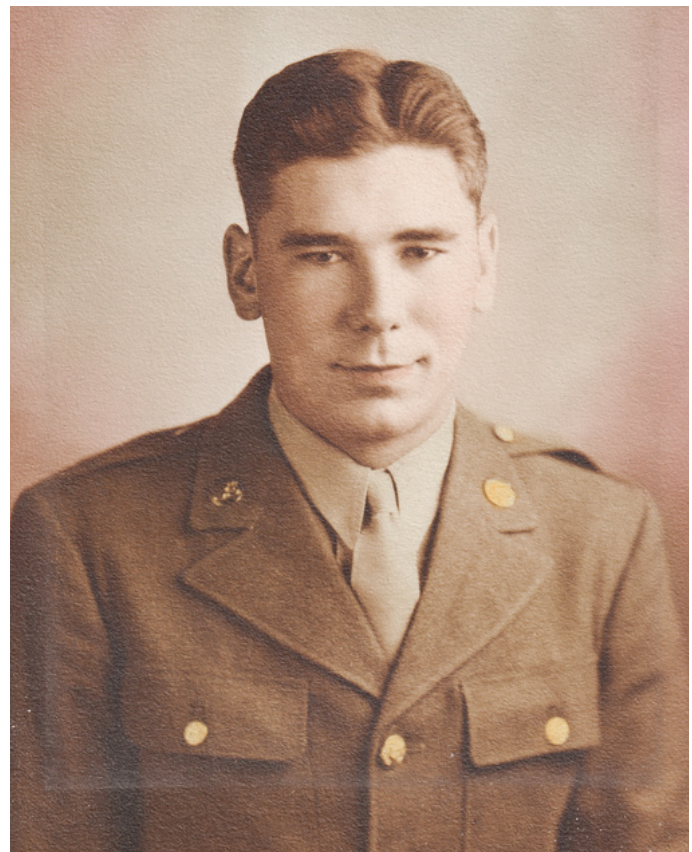
Testimony in these cases consist mostly of character witnesses. Evidence bearing on the crimes themselves is not necessary. The defendant has already pleaded guilty. Such was true in yesterday's hearing. However, States Attorney Castle put officers on the stand who had done the investigating in the cases therefore as a means of showing that the defendants had committed crimes and therefore did not deserve probation.

Attorney L. F. Moudry, appointed by the circuit court to defend Nepean and Cook, and Attorney A. G. Kennedy, retained by Hughie King, made strong pleas in an attempt to show that the boys should be given a chance to do better without punishment.

The hearing was held in the county court room as Judge Fulton wished to use the circuit court room for regular court session. The next hearing in regard to the boys will be had in the circuit court on or after March 9.



Robert Nepean



Bob Braffet, son of Mark Braffet



Back, left to right: unknown, Donnie, Barbara, Ethel. Front: Unknown, Arthur Sr, unknown



Arthur Sr, Ethel, Arthur Jr, Barbara and Donnie Cook



Arthur Cook Sr.





Donnie, Arthur Sr, Arthur Jr

Beyond his working life, Arthur Raymond Cook was deeply engaged in family and outdoor pursuits. He was an avid fisherman, and the family photo albums preserve numerous images of Arthur fishing with his children and relatives along local rivers and ponds—scenes that reflect both recreation and an enduring connection to the rural landscape of DeKalb County. These photographs suggest that fishing was not merely a pastime, but a recurring family activity that reinforced bonds across generations.

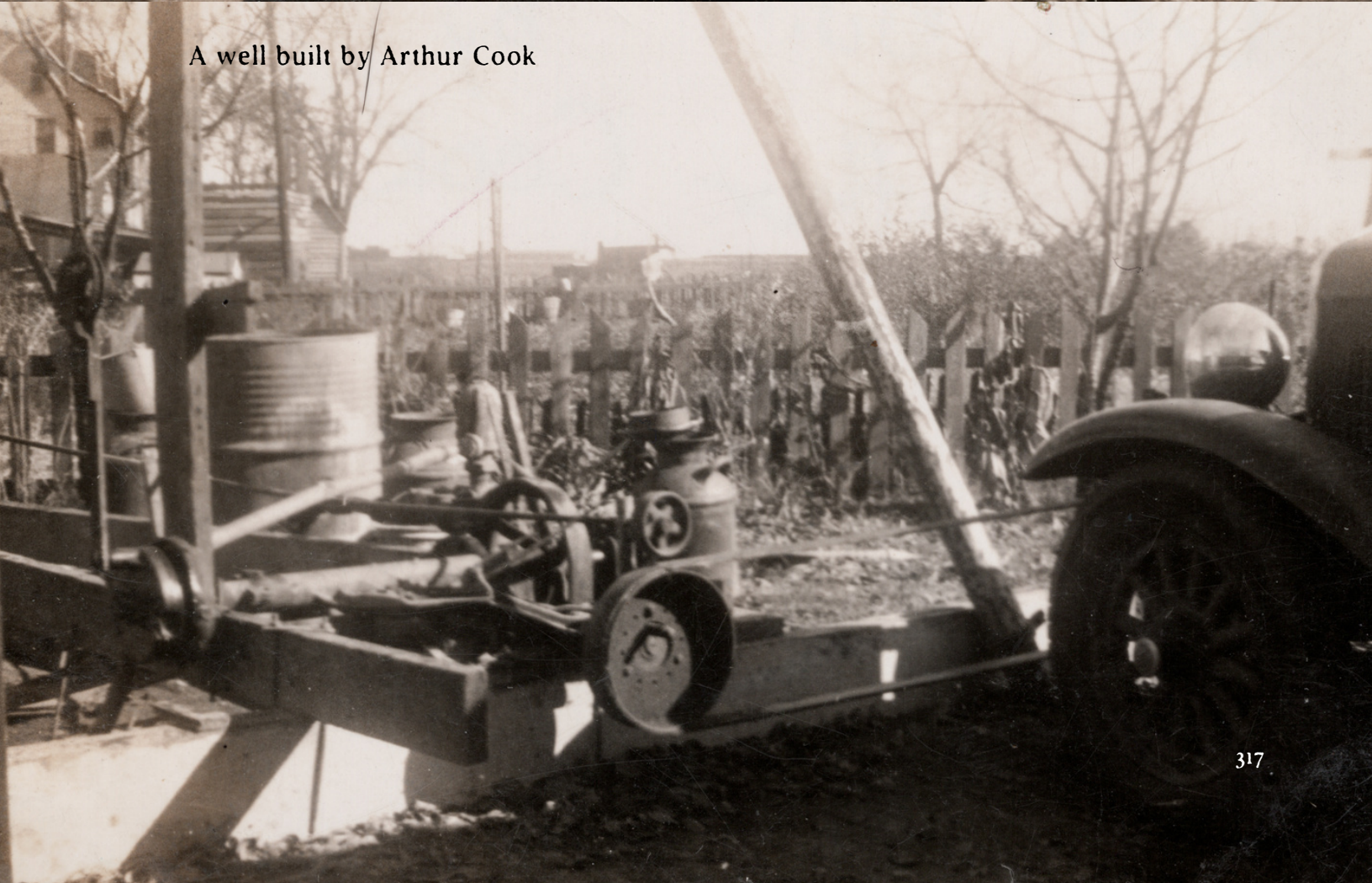
The photographic record also documents Arthur's practical mechanical abilities. Among the surviving images is a series showing Arthur constructing a well, the wooden derrick and rigging visible in the yard beside his home. Although the exact year of the well's construction is unknown, the project demonstrates Arthur's hands-on skill, self-reliance, and familiarity with tools and machinery—qualities consistent with his work as a junk dealer, industrial laborer, and station operator. Together, these images present Arthur not only as a wage earner navigating economic hardship, but as a capable provider who built, repaired, and sustained his household through both labor and ingenuity.



Arthur Cook Sr



A well built by Arthur Cook



By 1940, Arthur's circumstances had improved significantly. He was living at 908 South Sixth Street in DeKalb and working as a wire drawer in electrical manufacturing at Nehring Electric, a skilled industrial occupation requiring precision and physical endurance. This position marked a decisive transition from informal survival labor to steady industrial employment.

In 1950, Arthur was enumerated as an oil station manager, a role that placed him at the center of neighborhood commerce in postwar DeKalb. Filling stations served not only as places of business but as informal social hubs, and it is possible that Arthur's work in this setting brought him into contact with members of the Gibbs family—connections later formalized when his daughter, Barbara Jean Cook, married George Gibbs. That same census recorded Arthur's wife, Ethel Bruce King, employed as a wire winder, also at Nehring Electric, reflecting the emergence of a two-income industrial household.



Ethel - standing, last on right
Arthur, seated on right, with coworkers of Nehring Electric



Ethel - 3rd from left, other Nehring coworkers unknown



Arthur Cook Sr. fishing
with his Uncle Peter Lafayette Cook (seated)

SERIAL NUMBER 1939		1. NAME (Print) Arthur Cook (First) (Middle) (Last)			ORDER NUMBER 619
2. ADDRESS (Print) 908 So 6th DeKalb DeKalb Ill (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)					
3. TELEPHONE None	4. AGE IN YEARS 32 DATE OF BIRTH 12-2-1907 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)		5. PLACE OF BIRTH Newton Ill (Town or county)		6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP USA
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs Ethel Cook (Mr., Mrs., Miss) (First) (Middle) (Last)					8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON Wife
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 908 So 6th St DeKalb DeKalb Ill (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)					
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME Helmung Elect Works					
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 9th St Locust DeKalb DeKalb Ill (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)					
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.					
REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. Form 1 (over)			 (Registrant's signature)		

REGISTRAR'S REPORT					
DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT					
RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION		
White	5-8	135	Sallow		
	EYES	HAIR	Light		
Negro	Blue	Blonde	Ruddy		
	Gray	Red	Dark		
Oriental	Hazel	Brown	Freckled		
	Brown	Black	Light brown		
Indian	Black	Gray	Dark brown		
		Bald	Black		
Filipino					
Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification.....					
I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows: Scar on left side of chin					
Registrar for 87 DeKalb Ill (Precinct) (Ward) (City or county) (State)					
Date of registration					
DeKALB CO. BOARD No. 1 COURT HOUSE SYCAMORE, ILL. CO. (STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD) (The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space.)					61 037 001



Standing: Mary Ellen, Dorothy May & Helen Jeanette Cook
Seated: Edward, Donnie, Barbara, Arthur Jr. Cook



Barbara with her father Arthur Cook Sr.



Barbara with her father Arthur Cook Sr.



Arthur, Ethel, their daughter in law Margie (wife of Arthur Jr.)
and grandchildren Cynthia and Janet Cook



Arthur "Sonny" Cook Jr. with wife Margaret (back, right)
and children, Cynthia, Janet, Brian, Karen & Debbie



Arthur Cook Sr. & 2nd wife, Alma (Wolters) Cook

Arthur's marriage to Ethel ended in divorce, though the couple had three children together. In December 1955, Arthur remarried, wedding Alma Martha Elsie Wolters in Rockford, Illinois, and gaining stepchildren through this union. His later years appear marked by greater domestic stability.

Beyond his working life, Arthur was deeply engaged in family and outdoor pursuits. He was an avid fisherman, and the family photo album preserves numerous images of Arthur fishing with his children and relatives along local rivers and ponds. These scenes reflect not only recreation, but continuity—an enduring connection to place and family that persisted despite earlier hardship. The photographic record also documents Arthur's mechanical skill and self-reliance. A series of photographs shows Arthur constructing a well beside his home, complete with a wooden derrick and rigging. Although the year of construction is unknown, the project demonstrates his practical knowledge of tools, machinery, and manual problem-solving—qualities consistent with his work as a junk dealer, industrial laborer, and station operator.

Arthur Raymond Cook died on November 6, 1967, at the Sycamore Hospital. His obituary recorded a broad family network across DeKalb County and surrounding communities. His life—shaped by Depression-era hardship, industrial labor, legal trouble, and resilience—embodies the lived experience of twentieth-century working-class Illinois.

Arthur Cook Dies November 6

Arthur Cook, 59, of Sycamore, died Monday, November 6, 1967 at the Sycamore hospital.

He was born December 2, 1907, the son of Mr and Mrs William Cook and was married at Rockford to Alma Abrahamson December 21, 1955.

Survivors include his wife; two sons, Arthur and Donald, both of DeKalb; a daughter, Mrs George (Barbara) Gibbs of DeKalb; two stepdaughters, Mrs Robert (Phyllis) Patnou of Rockton and Mrs Harold (Arlene) Olson of Rockford; three brothers, Claude of Hinckley, Lowell of Kingston and Alva; a sister, Mrs John (Maude) Becklinger of Belvidere.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother and a stepbrother.

Funeral service were held at 2 p m this Wednesday at the Ronan-Burch mortuary in DeKalb with the Rev Lester E Smith officiating. Burial was in Fairview cemetery.

Hinckley Review

Hinckley, Illinois Thursday, November 9th, 1967

Mrs. Alma E. Cook

SYCAMORE - Mrs. Alma E. Cook, 59, of 1213 Wild St. Sycamore passed away Thursday, Jan. 28, 1971 at the Sycamore Municipal Hospital.

She was born Aug. 28, 1911 in Genoa, the daughter of Charles and Alma Walters and in December of 1955 she married Arthur Cook Sr. in Rockford. She was a former employee of Ideal Industries.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Robert (Phyllis) Patnou of Rockton, and Mrs. Harold (Arlene) Olson of Rockford; three stepchildren, Arthur Cook Jr. of DeKalb, Donald Cook of DeKalb and Mrs. Barbara Gibbs, all of DeKalb; and three sisters, Mrs. George (Ella) Campbell of Sycamore, Mrs. Frank (Lydia) Salens of St. Charles and Mrs. Emma Rosenske of Belvidere. Also surviving are 22 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband.

Funeral arrangements are

The Daily Chronicle

De Kalb, Illinois · Thursday, January 28, 1971



Ethel Bruce King was born on January 7, 1907, in Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, the daughter of **John W. King** and **Mary Jane Stratton**. During her childhood, she moved with her family to DeKalb County, Illinois, where she spent most of her life and formed lasting ties to the community.

In 1927, Ethel married **Arthur Raymond Cook Sr.**, and together they raised three children: **Arthur “Sonny” Raymond Cook Jr.**, **Donald “Donnie” Duane Cook**, and **Barbara Jean Cook**. Her early adult life centered on maintaining a household and raising her family during the economic uncertainty of the Great Depression and the social changes of the wartime years.

By 1950, Ethel had entered the industrial workforce, where federal census records list her occupation as a wire winder at Nehring Electric in DeKalb. This work required skill, patience, and technical precision, reflecting the growing role of women in manufacturing during the mid-twentieth century and demonstrating Ethel's efforts to support her household during a period of transition.





Ethel (King) Cook (Right) possibly with sister
at Nehring Electric in DeKalb



Ethel (King) Cook



Ethel (King) Cook



Ethel (King) Cook with
unconfirmed granddaughters



Barbara Cook and her mother, Ethel (King) Cook



Ethel (King) Cook with sons
Arthur Jr. and Donnie in background

On January 29, 1955, Ethel filed for divorce from Arthur Cook in DeKalb County on the legal grounds of desertion. Court filings during this era indicate that desertion generally referred to one spouse willfully leaving the marriage and failing to provide support. For women in mid-century Midwestern communities, pursuing divorce often required significant personal resolve and carried social as well as financial challenges.



In 1958, Ethel remarried Murrell Johnson Denny, though the marriage was brief due to his death later that same year. She remained in the DeKalb area for the remainder of her life, maintaining close connections with her children and extended family.



Ethel Bruce King Cook died on August 29, 1979, in Sycamore, Illinois.

Though surviving records document only selected aspects of her life, Ethel's story reflects perseverance, adaptability, and the quiet strength of a woman who navigated changing family and economic circumstances while helping sustain her family.



Arthur Cook Sr. and Ethel (King) Cook



Ethel King (on right) viewing the Black Hawk statue in Oregon, Illinois



Barbara (Cook) Gibbs, Roger Gibbs and Ethel (King) Cook



Ethel (King) Cook

CHAPTER 10

WILLIAM A. & MAGGIE
COOK



Arthur's life was built upon the long and difficult working life of his father, **William Albert Cook**. Born in August 1861 in Illinois, William was the son of **John Stiles Carter Cook** and **Mary Hannah Green**. Unlike his father, William would never achieve lasting landownership. Instead, his adulthood was defined by farming, repeated migration, and economic vulnerability.

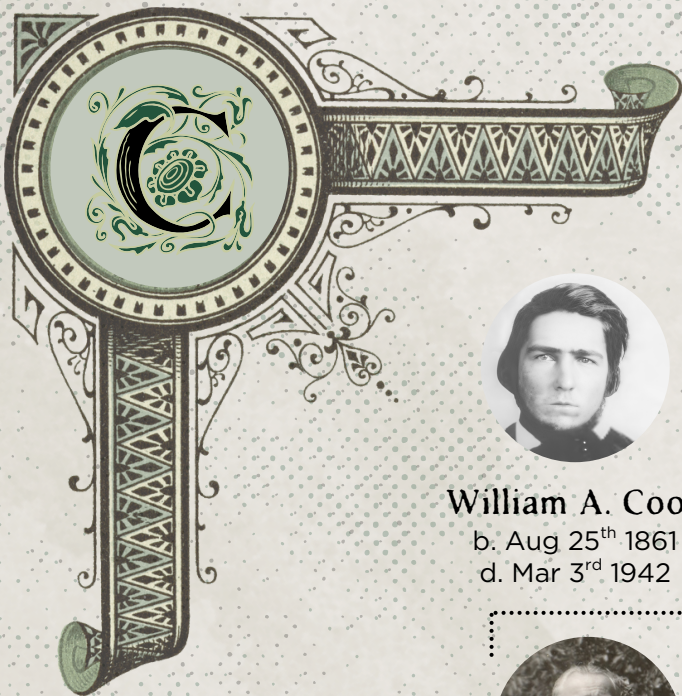
In the 1900 U.S. Federal Census, William was enumerated in Gold Hill, Gallatin County, Illinois, at age thirty-eight. Recently married to his third wife, **Margaret "Maggie" Crisel**, he was listed as a farm laborer renting his home. Though not a landowner, William was literate and reported only two months of unemployment during the previous year, suggesting steady demand for his labor despite limited opportunity for advancement.

By 1910, William and his family had moved north to Meriden in LaSalle County. He remained a farm laborer working for wages, but reported no weeks out of work during the previous year—an indication of improved stability. This move reflects the growing northward migration of agricultural laborers seeking steadier employment and access to transportation and markets.





William Albert Cook and Maggie Crisel on their wedding day
November 16th 1897



William A. Cook

b. Aug 25th 1861
d. Mar 3rd 1942



Eva Mae Wakefield

b. abt 1864
d. aft 1884



Elza Eothol Cook

b. Apr 26 1883
d. Aug 18 1964
m. Amanda Marie Hoffman



Mary Ethel Cook

b. Oct 9 1884
d. Jan 12 1956
m. Albert E. Kester



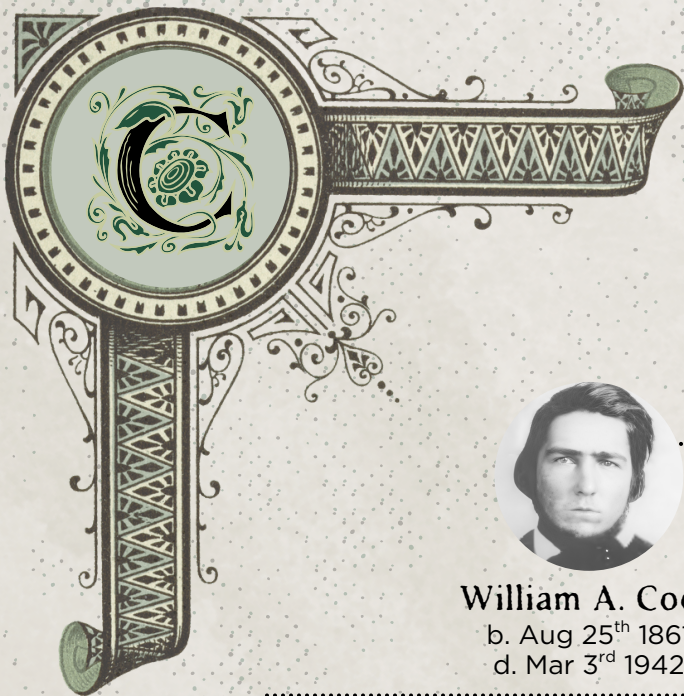
William A. Cook

b. Aug 25th 1861
d. Mar 3rd 1942



Minnie J. Wakefield

b. abt 1872
d. unknown



William A. Cook

b. Aug 25th 1861
d. Mar 3rd 1942



Maggie Crisel

b. Jul 26th 1879
d. Oct 22nd 1941



Claude W. Cook

b. Aug 15th 1899
d. Feb 23rd 1978
m. Florence Hix



Maude Cook

b. Aug 15th 1899
d. Dec 9th 1979
m. John Becklinger



Alva Cook Sr.

b. Sep 11th 1902
d. Mar 26th 1977
m. Ruth Ohme



Elmer W. Cook

b. Feb 20th 1905
d. Oct 12th 1957
m. Maggie Heath



Arthur R. Cook, Sr.

b. Dec 2nd 1907
d. Nov 6th 1967
m. Ethel King



Lowell R. Cook

b. Feb 19th 1911
d. Feb 1st 1984
m. Margaret Arbuckle



Margaret "Maggie" (Crisel) Cook
1879 - 1941



William Albert Cook
1861 - 1942



Cook family 1919
From left to right: William, Maggie, Claude, Alva Sr, Maude holding Ethel Becklinger, Elmer, Arthur Sr, and Lowell Cook. 1919

In 1920, William completed the family's gradual migration into DeKalb County, settling in Paw Paw Township. At fifty-eight, he was still engaged in farm labor and continued to rent his residence, underscoring the limited upward mobility available to rural wage workers despite decades of physical labor. This move placed the Cook family in DeKalb County just as Arthur entered adulthood.

The 1930 census reveals a turning point. William, now sixty-eight and divorced, was living in Victor Township in the household of his son Claude Cook, along with Claude's wife, young children, and a boarder. William no longer reported an occupation, reflecting advancing age, declining health, or the effects of the early Depression. For the first time, he appears not as a provider, but as a dependent family member.

By 1940, William was living in Mayfield Township with his daughter Maud Cook Becklinger and her husband. Listed as a widower, he reported no weeks of work and no earned income, though some income from other sources was noted—likely family support. He had completed schooling through the seventh grade, typical for rural men of his generation. William Albert Cook died in 1942, his life reflecting the reality of countless agricultural laborers whose work sustained families but rarely produced lasting security.



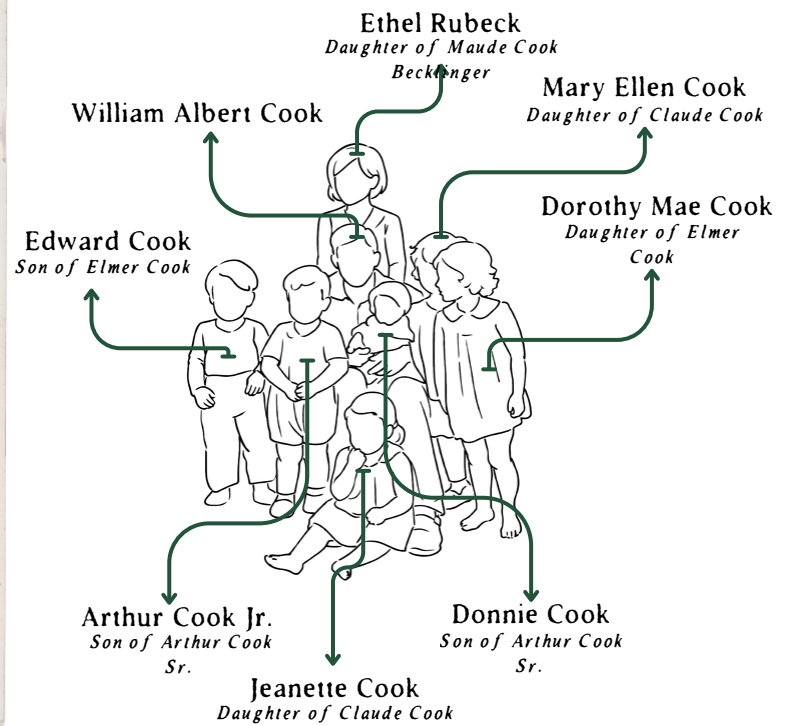
Back row: Maggie Cook, Arthur Cook Sr, William Albert Cook
Front: Arthur Jr, Barbara, Donnie Cook



William Albert Cook, Maggie (Crisel) Cook
Arthur Jr and Donnie Cook



William Albert Cookk
Arthur Jr and Donnie Cook



Obituary Of Wm. A. Cook

William Albert Cook was born in Jasper county August 25, 1861 and died at Elgin March 8, 1942, at the age of 80 years, 7 months and 8 days.

He leaves to mourn his passing eight children, Mrs. Mary Kester of Deiterich, Mrs. Maude Becklinger of Sycamore, Arthur Cook of DeKalb, Lowell Cook of Malta, Elmer Cook of Ottawa, Claude Cook of Shabbona, Alva and Elza Cook, both of Earlville; one sister, Mrs. Rose Birch of Ingham, and two brothers, Wesley Cook of Noble and Peter Cook of Shabbona Grove; 21 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Thursday afternoon at the Hill Funeral Home, Rev C. E. Boebel in charge. Burial was at the Precinct cemetery. Pall bearers were William Shroeder, jr., Howard Rubeck, Alva Cook, jr., Leonard Tillman, Clarence Cook, and Lewis Cook.

Those from a distance attending the funeral were Wesley Cook of Noble, Mr. and Mrs. Collie Cook and Mrs. Sadie Simpson of Whiting, Ind.; Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Cook of Danvers, Mrs. Zella Estes and Mrs. Bernice Jackson of Mendota.

The Earlville Leader

Earlville, Illinois Thursday, March 12th, 1942

William Cook of Shabbona Dies Tuesday

Shabbona, March 5.—William Albert Cook, age 80, a resident of the Earlville and Shabbona communities for about 30 years, died on Thursday of this week. Mr. Cook had not been in good health for some time.

William Albert Cook was born August 25, 1861, in Jasper county

where he made his home until 1912, when he became a resident of Earlville and later of Shabbona.

He is survived by two daughters and six sons, Mrs. Mary Kester of Dieterich, Illinois, Mrs. Maude Becklinger of Sycamore, Arthur Cook of DeKalb, Lowell of Malta, Elmer of Ottawa, Claude of Shabbona and Alva and Elza of Earlville; one sister, Mrs. Rose Birch and two brothers, Wesley Cook of Noble and Peter Cook of Shabbona Grove, and 21 grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held this afternoon at 2:00 o'clock from the Hills Funeral Home, Earlville, burial being in the Precinct cemetery.



Left to right, back: Elza Eothol Cook, Lowell Cook, Claude Cook
Maude Cook Becklinger, Alva Cook
Front: Arthur Cook Sr, Elmer Cook
1949



Maude (Cook) Becklinger & John Becklinger



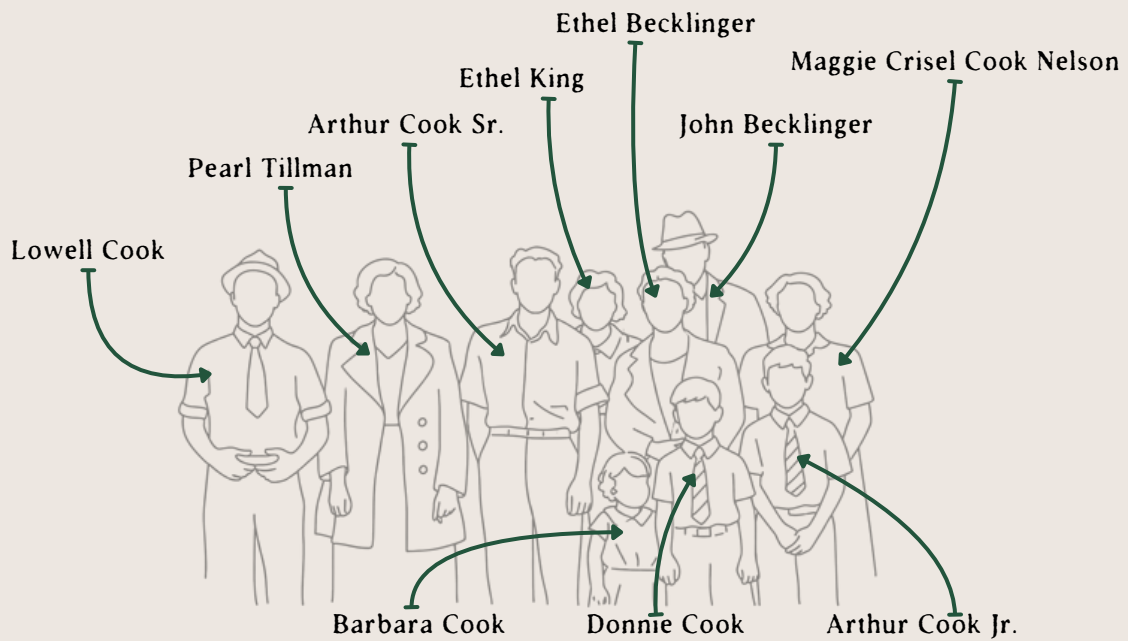
Margaret Arbuckle Cook & Lowell Cook



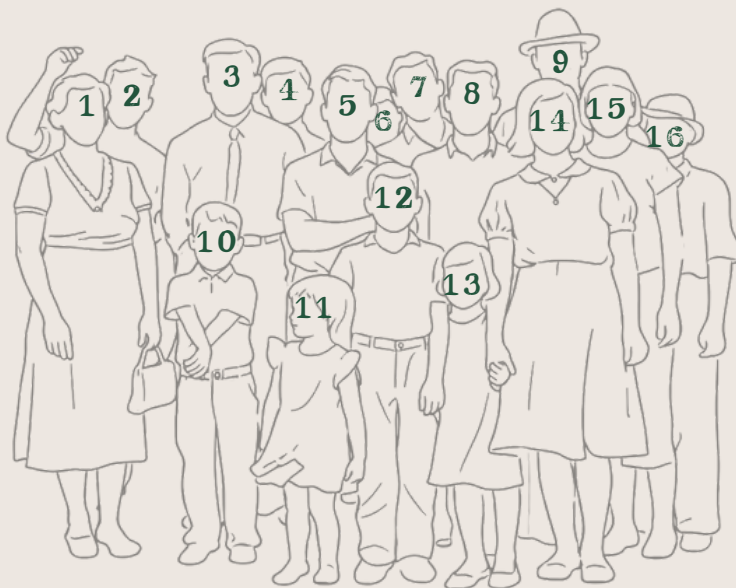
Ruth (Ohme) Cook & Alva Cook Sr 1945







Both photos taken about 1938



1. Maggie Heath-Cook
2. Elmer Cook
3. Unknown
4. Alva Cook Jr.
5. Lowell Cook
6. Ethel King
7. Arthur Cook Sr.
8. Alva Cook Sr.
9. John Becklinger
10. Donnie Cook
11. Barbara Cook
12. Arthur Cook Jr.
13. Kathleen Cook
14. Maxine Cook
15. Florence Hix Cook
16. Maud Cook-Becklinger

- Maxine and Kathleen Cook (13 & 14) are the daughters of Alva Cook Sr.
- Donnie, Barbara and Arthur Jr (10 - 12) are the children of Arthur Cook Sr and Ethel King

Rites Tomorrow For Elza Cook; Dies Tuesday

Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church for E. E. Cook, 81, who died at the Mendota Hospital, Tuesday, August 18, where he had been a patient for two weeks. Burial will be in Precinct Cemetery.

Elza Ethol Cook was born April 26, 1888 in South Muddy Twp., near Olney to William and Eva Wakefield Cook. He attended the Olney schools, came to Earlville in 1904 and has lived here ever since. He was married to Amanda Hoffman October 2, 1906. He was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, the Odd Fellows Lodge and the Sandwich Moose Lodge. He had served as Meriden Twp. supervisor and also as township road commissioner.

He is survived by his widow, a daughter, Mrs. Donel (Pearl) Ziebarth, two sons, Clarence and Lewis, all of Earlville, five grandchildren; six great grandchildren; a half-sister, Mrs. Maude Becklinger, Belvidere; four half-brothers, Lowell Cook of Kingston, Arthur Cook of De Kalb, Claude Cook of Hinckley and Alva Cook of Louisiana.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one sister and one brother.

Visitation is today at the Torman Funeral Home.

Earlville Leader

Earlville, Illinois 1964-08-20

● FRIENDS HONOR ELZA COOK

Friends of Elza Cook, numbering around fifty, met at the Cook home Sunday evening for a birthday celebration in his honor.

Guests were members of a Pingchle club and others from Earlville and Sandwich. They presented Mr. Cook with a purse of money.

Earlville Leader

01 May 1941, Earlville, Illinois

51 Attend Annual Cook Reunion Recently

Fifty-one members of the Cook family held their annual reunion at Mathlessen park recently. People attended from Whiting, Indiana, Paw Paw, Danvers, Kingston, Mendota, Hinckley, Waterman and Leland.

Those present from Earlville were Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Cook and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Cook and family and Mrs. Pearl Tillman.

Earlville Leader

28 Aug 1952, Earlville, Illinois

Among the 70 guests attending the annual Cook reunion at Hopkins Park, DeKalb, Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Donel Ziebarth, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Cook and family and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Cook and family. E. E. Cook received special honors for being the eldest guest present and his great grandson, Terry Cook, for being the youngest.

Earlville Leader

21 Aug 1958, Earlville, Illinois

Youth Injured in Auto Crash

Alva Cook, Jr., Crashes Into Train Monday on Route 34

Alva Cook, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Alva Cook who live three miles east of Earlville, was critically injured last Monday evening about 5 45 o'clock when a car he was driving crashed into the tender of a Burlington freight train a quarter mile east of town on route 34.

Cook was rushed to Earlville, unconscious and bleeding badly, where Dr. O. H. Fischer gave first aid and then took him to the Mendota hospital. There it was discovered that the youth had a skull fracture, a fracture of the upper jaw, severe lacerations on the face and possible other injuries.

Handicapped by loss of a large amount of blood, the injured boy has responded well to treatment and has made steady gains. Although he is still in a serious condition, high hopes are held for his recovery.

Details of the accident are obscure. The freight train was traveling north to Earlville from Sheridan at a slow rate of speed. Whether Cook tried to beat the train or whether he failed to see it is unknown. At any rate he struck the tender of the engine while traveling at a high rate of speed. The car was a total wreck from the collision and how he escaped with his life is a mystery.

Cook is a junior in the Earlville Community high school. He was hurrying home from a ball game at the time of the accident.

The Earlville Leader

Earlville, Illinois 1940-08-29



Photo courtesy Adam Kirk

Elmer, Maggie, Dorothy
Edward Cook. 1934



Photo courtesy Adam Kirk

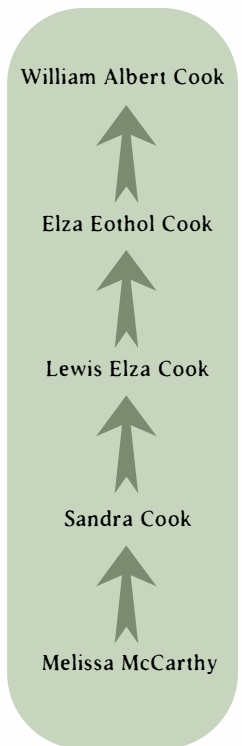
Maud Cook, John Becklinger and
Ethel Becklinger. 1920



Actor and comedian **Melissa McCarthy** shares a direct ancestral connection with our family through my second great-grandfather, William Albert Cook. This relationship runs through Melissa's mother, **Sandra Cook**, descending from **William Albert Cook** and his first wife, **Eva Mae Wakefield**, making Melissa my half third cousin. While distant in degree, the connection is genealogically sound and firmly rooted in the Cook family line established in the Midwest during the nineteenth century.

Melissa McCarthy is an acclaimed American actress, comedian, writer, and producer, celebrated for both her sharp comedic timing and her dramatic range. Born on August 26, 1970, in Plainfield, Illinois, she rose to prominence as Sookie St. James on the television series *Gilmore Girls*. Her breakout film role in *Bridesmaids* (2011) earned her an Academy Award nomination and established her as a leading figure in modern American comedy. She has since starred in films such as *The Heat*, *Spy*, and *Can You Ever Forgive Me?*, the latter earning widespread critical acclaim for its dramatic depth. Beyond acting, McCarthy is a co-founder of the production company *On the Day* and remains an influential creative presence in Hollywood.

Melissa's Cook ancestry was briefly acknowledged on the PBS genealogy series *Finding Your Roots*, hosted by historian **Henry Louis Gates Jr.** In Season 6, Episode 2, the episode largely focused on her other ancestral lines, but nonetheless confirmed her descent from the Cook family—an intriguing reminder that our shared lineage reaches from nineteenth-century Midwestern farm families to one of the most recognizable figures in contemporary American film and television.





Margaret “Maggie” M. Crisel was born on 26 July 1879 in Dahlgren, Hamilton County, Illinois, under circumstances that quietly set her apart from many of her contemporaries. She was the daughter of **Edward T. Crisel** and **Gillette Ann “Gilly” Lowry**, whose brief relationship did not culminate in marriage. In the rigid social environment of late nineteenth-century rural Illinois, Maggie’s birth outside of wedlock carried lasting implications—yet she would ultimately stand at the head of two large families, preceding all of her half-siblings on both her mother’s and father’s sides Margaret Maggie M Crisel



Maggie’s early childhood unfolded within a complex blended household. In 1880, when Maggie was still an infant, her mother married Thomas R. Cook, (no relation to other Cooks discussed in this book) providing stability and social legitimacy at a time when unmarried motherhood was heavily stigmatized. Over the next decade, Gilly would give birth to eight additional children. Maggie, the eldest, occupied a distinct position within the family—older than all of her siblings, yet carrying a different surname and paternal lineage.

Edward T. Crisel likewise formed a conventional family of his own. In 1882, he married Flora Hulett, and together they also had eight children. Although Edward was identified as Maggie’s biological father, there is no evidence that he participated in her upbringing or maintained a relationship with her.

Maggie does not appear in records associated with his household, and surviving documentation suggests that while his identity was known to her, it was known imperfectly. His name appears on her marriage record, but her death certificate later recorded his first name incorrectly, indicating distance rather than familiarity.

Maggie's mother died in 1901, when Maggie was in her early twenties, marking another turning point in her life. Around this time, Maggie appears to have left her childhood home and relocated to Gallatin County, Illinois. Whether motivated by necessity, opportunity, or independence, this move preceded the defining transition of her adult life.

On 16 November 1897, Maggie married William Albert Cook in Shawneetown, Gallatin County. Through this marriage, she established a household of her own and entered a socially recognized role denied to her parents' relationship. Over the following years, she became the mother of seven children and guided her family through a series of moves across southern and northern Illinois, reflecting both economic necessity and the mobility typical of working families in the early twentieth century.

In later life, Maggie settled permanently in DeKalb County, where she remarried following William Cook's death and became an active participant in community and family life. Newspaper accounts from the 1930s place her among relatives and friends at social gatherings, suggesting a woman firmly embedded within her community. Maggie died on 22 October 1941 in Mayfield Township, DeKalb County, Illinois, leaving behind a large extended family and a life arc defined by resilience, adaptation, and ultimately stability—achieved not by inheritance or circumstance, but through the family she built herself

**Services for
Mrs. Nelson
to Be Friday**

Funeral services for Mrs. Lee Nelson, age 57, living nine miles north of DeKalb on the North First Street Road, will be held on Friday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock from the Nelson & Ronan Mortuary. The Rev. Billman of the Methodist church will conduct the service. Interment will be in the Fairview cemetery.

Mrs. Nelson passed away very suddenly at her home yesterday morning, having been ill but a short time.

Mrs. Maggie Cricel-Nelson was born on July 26, 1884. In 1900 she was united in marriage to W. A. Cook, to which union were born six children, Maude Becklinger of Sycamore and Claude Cook of DeKalb, twins; Alva Cook of Earlville, Elmer Cook of Ottawa, Arthur Cook of DeKalb, Lowell Cook of Malta; eleven grandchildren, and two brothers and two sisters, Riley, Frank and Mrs. Pearl Wilson and Miss Maimie, all of whom survive.

On December 21, 1929, Mrs. Cook was united in marriage to Lee Nelson at Geneva, since which time the family has resided in this vicinity.

The DeKalb Daily Chronicle
De Kalb, Illinois • Thursday, October 23, 1941

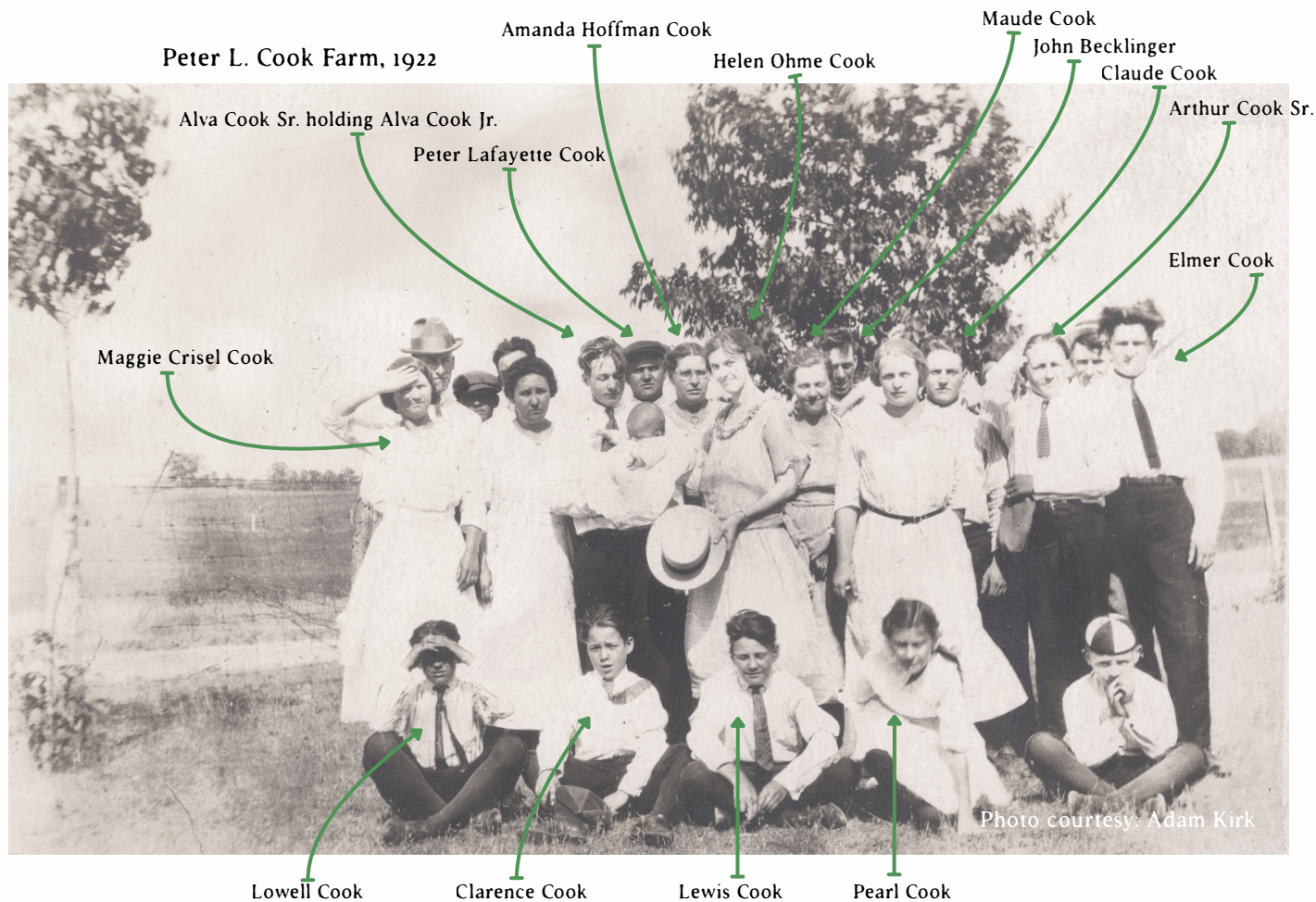
Mr. and Mrs. Claude Cook and daughters with Mr. and Mrs. Lee Nelson and Lowell Cook, of Sycamore, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Cook and family of DeKalb, Mrs. J. Becklinger and Ethel and Howard Ruback all of Kingston. Joe Crow of Rollo enjoyed a picnic dinner at Starved Rock Sunday. Janet and Mary Cook who had been visiting their grandmother, Mrs. Nelson for a couple of weeks returned home after the picnic.

The Daily Chronicle
De Kalb, Illinois • Fri, Jun 26, 1936



Maggie Crisel Cook with 2nd husband Lee Nelson

Peter L. Cook Farm, 1922



No 44634

Marriage License

ADULT

Mr. O. L. Nelson

with

Mrs. Margaret Cook

Issued December 27th 1929

Married December 27th 1929

Filed June 26th 1930

Charles Lowry

Clerk.

Registered June 26th 1930

Marriage Register 12

Page 390

Department of Public Health Register

Page _____

Illinois Office Supply Company, Ottawa, Illinois.

Department of Public Health

Return of a Marriage to County Clerk

1. Full Name of GROOM O. L. Nelson
2. Place of Residence DeKalb
3. Occupation Farmer
4. Age next Birthday 33 Yrs. Color Wh. Race Sw.
5. Place of Birth Sweden
6. Father's Name Nels Larson
7. Mother's Maiden Name Emma Olson
8. Number of Groom's Marriage First
9. Full Name of BRIDE Mrs. Margaret Cook
Maiden Name, if a Widow _____
10. Place of Residence DeKalb
11. Age next Birthday 46 Yrs. Color Wh. Race Am.
12. Place of Birth Hammond County
13. Father's Name Ed Cricel
14. Mother's Maiden Name Gillett Lowry
15. Number of Bride's Marriage Second
16. Married at Geneva in the County of Kane and State of Illinois, the 27th day of Dec. 1929.
17. Witnesses to Marriage John F. Stephen

N. B.—At Nos. 8 and 15 state whether 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc., marriage of each; 17, give names of subscribing witnesses to the Marriage Certificate. If no subscribing witnesses, give names of two persons who witnessed the ceremony.

December 27th 1929.

We hereby certify that the information above given is correct, to the best of our knowledge and belief.

O. L. Nelson (Groom)

Margaret Cook (Bride)

I hereby certify that the above is a correct return of a Marriage solemnized by me.

W. A. Keiser

Justice of the Peace.

Dated at Geneva this 27th day of December 1929.

This Return is to be carefully filled out and returned with the Marriage License. This Return does not take the place of the Certificate which comes attached to the License, but is IN ADDITION THERETO.

Ottawa Woman Seriously Shot

Formerly Lived in Earlville
and Known by Many
Here

Word from Ottawa yesterday said Peyton was waging a grim battle with death, with the left side of his face shot off, including the lower jaw, the cheekbone and the teeth on that side.

Mrs. Margaret Cook, who before her marriage six years ago, was Margaret Heath, of Earlville, was shot and seriously but not dangerously wounded at Ottawa Monday forenoon by Everett Peyton, 45, of Chicago, a former boarder in the Cook household, whom the woman said forced his attentions on her at Ottawa, and was repulsed.

After shooting Mrs. Cook, Peyton turned the weapon, a shotgun, on himself, blowing off the left side of his face.

The shooting took place in the furnished rooms where Mrs. Cook, her husband, Elmer Cook, and their two children, Dorothy, 5, and Edward, 3, reside at 717 Canal street.

Mrs. Mary Monroe, the owner of the house and Mrs. Ethel Cornelius were in the house at the time, but were not in the apartment where the shooting took place. They heard Mrs. Cook scream, imploring Peyton not to hurt her, and call for help. She then rushed from the house and was in the yard outside.

Peyton stood in the kitchen door and shot her as she stopped in the yard to look back. He then stepped inside of the kitchen, and with the tiny son of Mrs. Cook looking on, fired two more shots, which practically tore all the flesh from the left side of his face. His right eye was blackened. Mrs. Cook claims she does not know how he received this bruise, but the authorities think it was caused by the shooting.

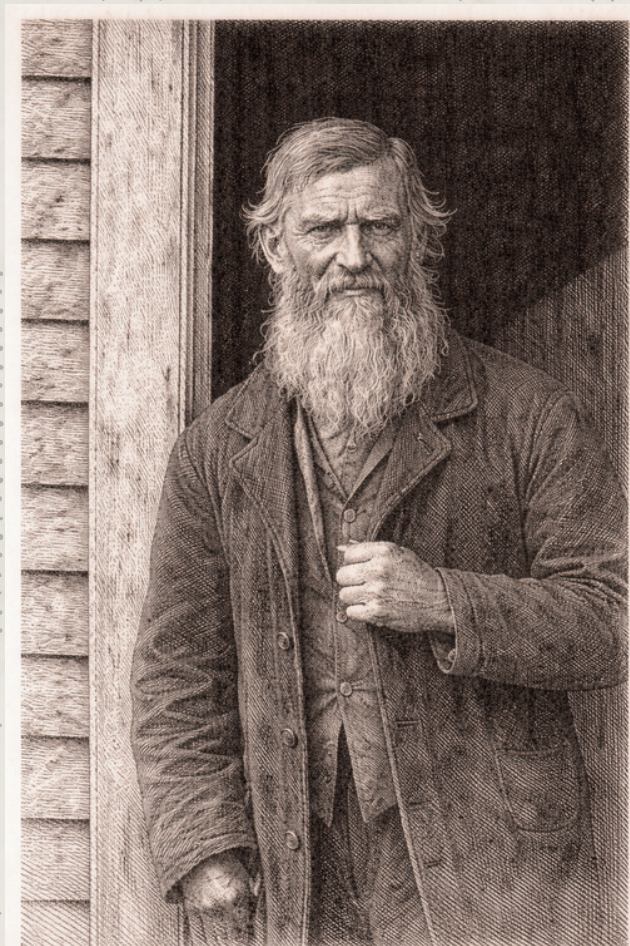
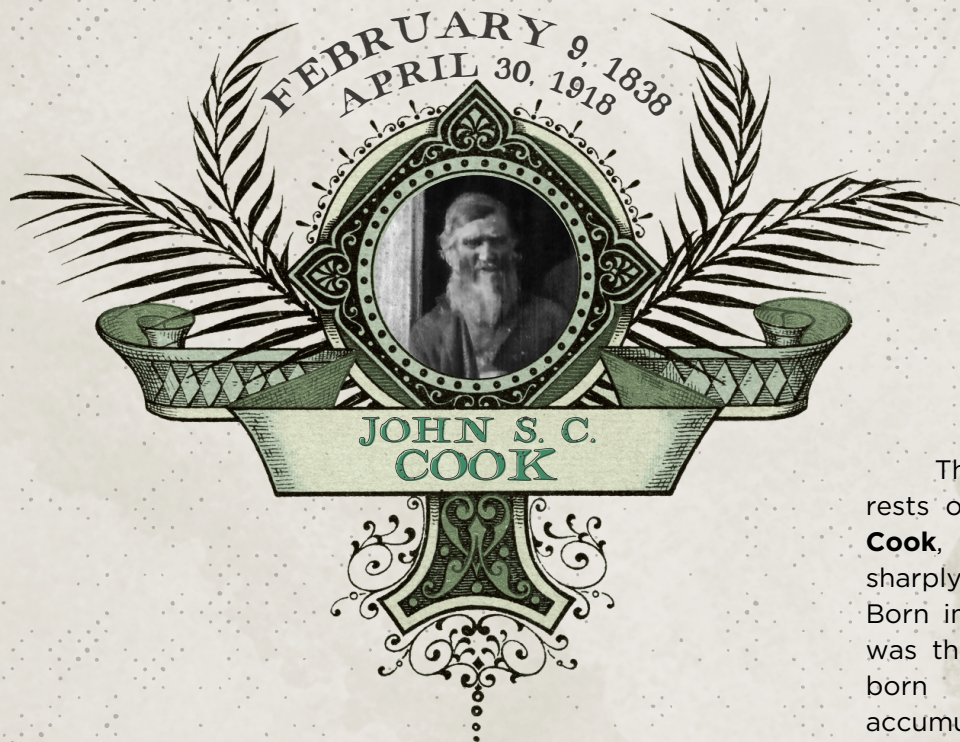
Both were removed to Ryburn-King hospital within a few minutes after the trouble. Her left leg was seriously injured just above the ankle and her right leg had pellets in it. At the hospital it was necessary to administer opiates to relieve his suffering.

When Mrs. Monroe reached her side, Mrs. Cook implored her to go into the house and get her small son Edward, whom she had left there when she fled. Mrs. Monroe told the woman she was afraid to go inside, and just then the child came out. No one entered the Cook apartment until the police, who were summoned by Mrs. Cornelius, arrived.

They found Peyton in a pool of blood in the kitchen. Both the kitchen and dining room were covered with blood which was streaming from the wounds in the side of his face.

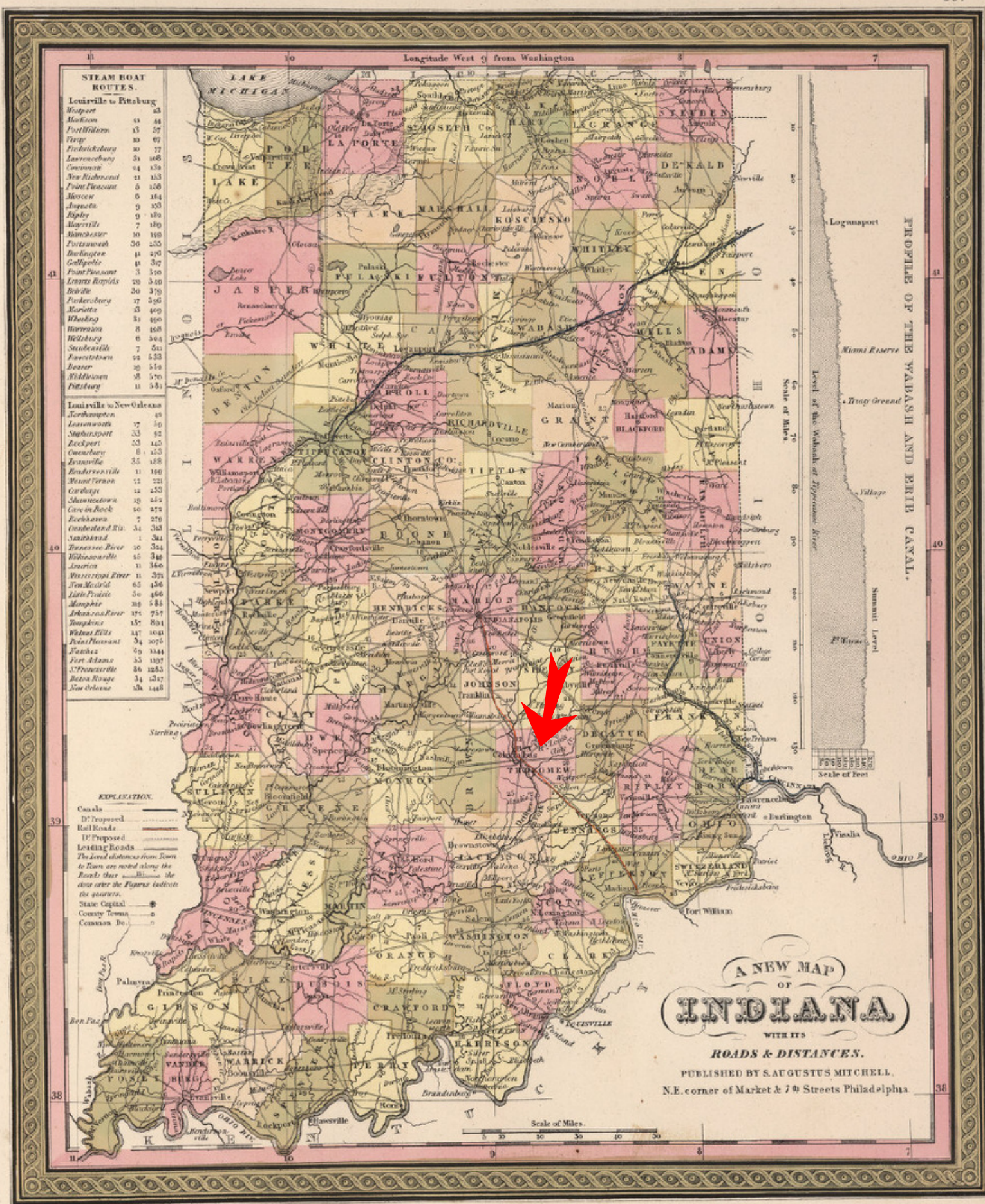
Elmer Cook, the woman's husband was at work at one of the Silica mines at the time of the shooting, and little Dorothy was at kindergarten. Cook, when summoned to the hospital, said that Peyton formerly boarded at his home. He said that two days ago he requested Peyton to remain away from his home, because he was drinking and was always in an ugly mood when intoxicated.

The Earlville Leader
Earlville, Illinois 1931-11-19



The Cook family's story ultimately rests on the life of **John Stiles Carter Cook**, whose experience contrasts sharply with that of his descendants. Born in February 1838 in Indiana, John was the son of **John Cook**, a Virginia-born farmer who by 1860 had accumulated real estate valued at \$1,800 and a personal estate of \$400 in Jasper County, Illinois. This level of property ownership provided John Stiles Carter Cook with a foundation of agricultural stability that later generations would not retain, reflecting the relative prosperity available to some mid-nineteenth-century farming families before economic pressures and changing labor patterns reshaped rural life.

In the 1870 U.S. Federal Census, John was enumerated in South Muddy Township, Jasper County, at age thirty-two. He was listed as a farmer and head of household, with real estate valued at \$600 and a personal estate valued at \$350. His household included his 3rd wife, Samaria, and five young children, including **William Albert Cook**, then eight years old. This census captures John during his prime working years, firmly established as a landholding farmer in the post-Civil War period, when ownership of even modest acreage conveyed security, status, and independence within the rural Illinois landscape.





John Cook
b. Abt 1796
d. Aug 22nd 1862



Nancy Ann Poore
b. 1807
d. 1850s



Sarah Ann Cook
b. Feb 20 1826
d. Dec 6 1903
m. William Rude



Barbara Cook
b. Feb 27 1828
d. Nov 17 1906
m. Eli Devore



David Cook
b. Abt 1830
d. Aft 1870



Nancy Jane Cook
b. Nov 3rd 1833
d. Mar 23rd 1877



Rebecca "Kissie" Cook
b. Dec 19th 1835
d. May 16th 1910
m. Marcus Swaim



John S. C. Cook
b. Feb 9th 1838
d. Apr 30th 1918
m. Mary Hannah Green,
Mary Lewis,
& Lumira Nottingham



Jacob Cook
b. May 1840
d. Jun 1st 1906
m. 5X



Nancy Ann Cook
b. June 21st 1842
d. May 3rd 1921
m. Robert Ford



Jesse Cook
b. 1846
d. Jun 5th 1894

SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in South Muddy Township in the County of Jasper State of Illinois enumerated by me, on the _____ day of _____ 1860. Joseph Schifferstein Ass't Marshal.
Post Office St. Marie

Dwelling-houses— numbered in the order of valuation.	Families numbered in the order of valuation.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family.	Description.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	VALUE OF ESTATE OWNED.		Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.	
			Age.	Sex.	Color. { White, black, or mulatto.		Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
439	403	John Cook	60	m		Farmer	1800	100	Va				
		Harriet "	50	f					Pa				
		John S. C. "	22	m					Ind				
		Jacob "	21	m					"				
		Jesse "	11	m					"		7		
		Joshua B. Craig	14	m					Ky		4		
		Stephen H. "	12	m					Mo		7		
440	403	David S. Davis	26	m		Farmer	200	150	Ind				
		Fancy "	28	f					"				
		Elias B.	1	m					"				
		John "	2	m					"				
441	403	Henry "	2	m					"				
		Abner "	2	m					"				
		William "	2	m					"				
		Harriet "	2	f					"				
		Julia "	2	f					"				
442	404	David "	26	m					"				
		Fancy "	28	f					"				
		Harriet "	2	f					"				
443	405	William "	26	m					"				
		Sarah "	24	f					"				
		James "	22	m					"				
		John "	20	m					"				
		Fancy "	28	f					"				
		David "	26	m					"				
		Eli "	24	m					"				
		Eliza "	22	f					"				
444	406	George "	26	m					"				
		Joseph "	24	m					"				
		Packer "	22	m					"				
		Euphemia "	12	m					"		1		
		Laura "	10	f					Mo		1		
		Marce "	8	m					"				
		Isa Colby "	1	m					"				
445	407	Simon Aritsman	29	m		Farmer	800	700	Ills				
		Elvira "	20	f					"				
		David Reeves	16	m					"		9		
446	408	Wm McLean	45	m		Physician	800	700	Ky				
		Mary Ann "	38	f					Ind				
No. white males, 241 No. colored males, _____ No. foreign born, _____ No. blind, _____ 3400													
No. white females, 15 No. colored females, _____ No. deaf and dumb, _____ No. insane, 6600 No. paupers, _____ No. convicts, _____													

1860 Federal US Census
South Muddy Township, Jasper County, Illinois

The 1860 United States Census for South Muddy Township in Jasper County, Illinois records John S. C. Cook, age 22, residing in the household of his father, John Cook. Also living in the home are his brothers Jacob Cook and Jesse Cook, illustrating the close-knit family structure typical of rural Illinois households during the mid-nineteenth century.

At the time this census was taken, John S. C. Cook was a young man on the cusp of adulthood, still living within his father's household and likely assisting with the family's agricultural work. Census records such as this provide an important snapshot of the Cook family just prior to the upheaval of the Civil War era, documenting their residence, family relationships, and place within the farming community of Jasper County.

No. _____

Class I comprises all persons subject to do military duty between the ages of twenty and thirty-five years, and all unmarried persons subject to do military duty above the age of thirty-five years and under the age of forty-five. Class II comprises all other persons subject to do military duty.

SCHEDULE I.—CONSOLIDATED LIST of all persons of CLASS I, subject to do military duty in the Eleventh **Congressional District, consisting of the Counties of** Jasper
and South Muddy **State of** Illinois **, enumerated during the month of** July **1863, under direction of**
W. C. Kean **, Provost Marshal.**

RESIDENCE	NAME	DESCRIPTION				PLACE OF BIRTH (Naming the State, Territory, or Country.)	FORMER MILITARY SERVICE	REMARKS
		AGE 1st July, 1863.	WHITE OR COLORED.	PROFESSION, OCCUPATION, OR TRADE.	MARRIED OR UNMARRIED.			
Jasper County South Muddy Township	1 Mackert John R.	29	white	Farmer	mar.	K. Y.		1
	2 Byrne Thomas	32	"	"	"	Ind.		2
	3 Bolton John W.	29	"	"	"	Ohio		3
	4 Bolony Joseph	26	"	"	"	K. Y.		4
	5 Bolony Nathan	23	"	"	"	Ind.		5
	6 Bolony Lott S.	21	"	"	"	"		6
	7							7
	8 Cook John	25	"	"	"	"		8
	9 Cook David	23	"	"	"	"		9
	10 Craig Thos. H.	22	"	"	"	K. Y.		10
	11 Craig Ira	20	"	"	single	"		11
	12 Craig George	25	"	"	mar.	"		12
	13 Catteret Henry	29	"	"	"	"		13
	14 Crouse Andrew	29	"	"	"	N. C.		14
	15 Catter Green P.	44	"	"	single	K. Y.		15
	16							16
	17 Drake David	22	"	"	"	Ind.		17
	18 Drake James	20	"	"	"	"		18
	19							19
	20 Evans Caleb	30	"	"	mar.	Ind.		20

To Colonel JAMES B. FRY,
 Provost Marshal General U. S.,
 Washington, D. C.

Olney STATION: Headquarters 11th Cong. Dist. of Illinois
 DATE: Sept 15th 1863.

W. C. Kean
 Capt. 9th Reg. Ill. Inf. Provost Marshal.

This 1863 muster roll for South Muddy Township in Jasper County, Illinois, includes the name of John S. C. Cook among the local men recorded for militia enrollment during the Civil War period. Such rolls were commonly compiled as part of statewide efforts to account for eligible men and organize local militia units for defense and potential federal service. These documents often listed adult men residing within a township, whether or not they ultimately entered active military service.

Although John S. C. Cook appears on this muster roll, no additional records have been found to indicate that he served in the Civil War. His inclusion likely reflects his status as a resident male of military age who was subject to militia enrollment rather than confirmed service in a regiment. As a result, the record provides useful context for placing Cook within his community during the wartime years, while also illustrating how local governments documented men eligible for service during the conflict.

Whateva
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fire a
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open bank, etc.
be adm-
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nited
Clerk
ordingly

State of Illinois
Jasper County

1864 Jasper County Illinois Probate

The probate and inventory records of John Cook of Jasper County, Illinois, identify his son, John S. C. Cook, as an heir, providing clear documentary evidence of their relationship and offering valuable insight into the distribution of his estate.

baire opened by proclamation

In the Matter of the Order on Settlement
Estate of John of Estate
Cook deceased

Now at this day comes Eli Devore administrator of said estate and presents to the court his report and account current of said estate, and the court being advised concerning the same it is Ordered by the court that the said report be spread upon the records of this court which is in substance as follows to wit

State of Illinois
Jasper County

To the Judge of the County Court of Jasper County October Term A.D. 1864

The undersigned Eli Devore Administrator of the Estate of John Cook deceased, would respectfully submit to the court the following Report of his acts and doings as such administrator of said estate from his appointment to October 20th A.D. 1864. he charges himself with the following to wit.

To amt. of Inventory	\$104.10
To amt. of Sale Bill of personal property	422.11
To amt. of 2d Inventory	48.50
To amt. Claimed & taken by the widow	12.00
Total personal assets	\$586.71

contra

He asks to be credited with the following sums, paid out as per receipts exhibited.

Orman Pixley
David Spartin
Edwin S. Farr
J.B. Collins
Eli Devore
Wesley Woods

Amount	Receipts
34 12	35 74
22 00	22 00
7 00	7 00
8 00	8 00
1 50	1 50
5 28	5 44

Stotler & Walker Printers fee
 Joseph A Drake appraiser
 A E Park Attorney fee
 H Hastings appraiser
 Thomas J Brown clerk at sale
 Alfred Glen clerk at sale
 R S Deett appraiser
 Tax Receipt for 1863
 Tax Receipt " 1862
 Tax Receipt " 1861
 O'Burtil's fees & charges
 Admr's commission on \$586.71 at 6 per cent
 would ask for an allowance for extra services
 " Interest paid on above claims
 Total Indebtedness

aff. chgr	Deett
5 00	5 00
1 25	1 25
10 00	10 00
75	75
2 00	2 00
2 00	2 00
75	75
13 50	13 50
9 42	9 42
6 91	6 91
18 80	18 80
35 20	35 20
15 00	15 00
1 78	
\$200 26	200 26

Learning the sum of \$374.45 after paying all of the indebtedness against said estate, which is to be divided between nine heirs at law, to wit, Sarah Rude, Barbary Rude, Vernon, David Book, Nancy Stanley, John S. B. Book, Jacob Book, Rebecca Swain, Anna Ford and Jesse Book. The undersigned has paid off all the indebtedness against said estate, and filed receipts in this Court therefor, and two years at least has expired since he took out letters of administration upon said estate, would therefore pray that this Court will pass an order declaring said estate settled and said administrator discharged from further liability, by his paying over the aforesaid sum of \$374.45 to the heirs at law of the decedant, as this Court may direct. The undersigned would further report that Abigail Book widow of said deceased has relinquished all her right to her specific dower in said estate except \$12.00 which she took at appraisement value, all of which is respectfully submitted.

Oli Devore

Administrator

And the Court being sufficiently advised concerning the foregoing report and settlement, it is Ordered by the Court that the said report be approved, and it further appearing to the Court that the said administrator has paid

REGISTER OF

1. No. of License. 2. Date of License.	1. By whom affidavit, if any, is made. 2. By whom consent to Marriage given.	1. Full Name of Groom. 2. Place of Residence. 3. Occupation.	1. Age next Birthday. 2. Race or Color. 3. Place of Birth.	1. Father's Name. 2. Mother's Maiden Name. 3. No. of Groom's Marriage.
252 1884		Farmer	County Ind	1st
✓ 1032	John S. C. Cook	1 John S. C. Cook	1 46 Years	1 John Cook
			2 American	
January 21 1884	2	2 South Muddy St. Jasper. Ill	3 New Columbus Indiana	2 Nancy Cook
		3 Farmer		3 3rd
✓ 1 1033	1 McCarty Dodson	1 McCarty Dodson	1 37 Years	1 Amasa Dodson

These marriage records document the three known marriages of John S. C. Cook, offering a glimpse into the personal and family life of a man whose experiences spanned multiple chapters of the nineteenth century. Each record marks the formation of a new household and reflects the social and familial networks of the communities in which he lived. Such records, typically created by county clerks or officiating ministers, include the names of the bride and groom, the date and location of the ceremony, and the name of the individual who performed the marriage.

286

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
Jasper County. } ss.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,
To all who shall see these Presents,---GREETING:

Know Ye, That license and permission has been granted to any Minister of the Gospel au-
thorized to marry by the church or society to which he belongs; any Justice of the Supreme Court;--
Justice of any Inferior Court, or Justice of the Peace, to celebrate and certify the marriage of Mr. John
Stiles, C. Cook and Miss Sumira C. Nottingham
now both of this County, according to the usual custom and laws of the State of Illinois--

Witness Myself Clerk of the County Court in and
for the County of Jasper and the seal of said
Court hereunto affixed at Newton this 24th day
of March A. D. 1865

W. Mountiss CLERK.

State of Illinois, }
Jasper County. } ss.

I hereby Certify, That on the 26th day
A. D. 1865 I joined in the Holy State of Matrimony--
John Stiles, C. Cook and Miss Sumira C. Nottingham
according to the usual custom and laws of Illinois.

Given under my hand and seal, this 28th day of March A. D. 1865

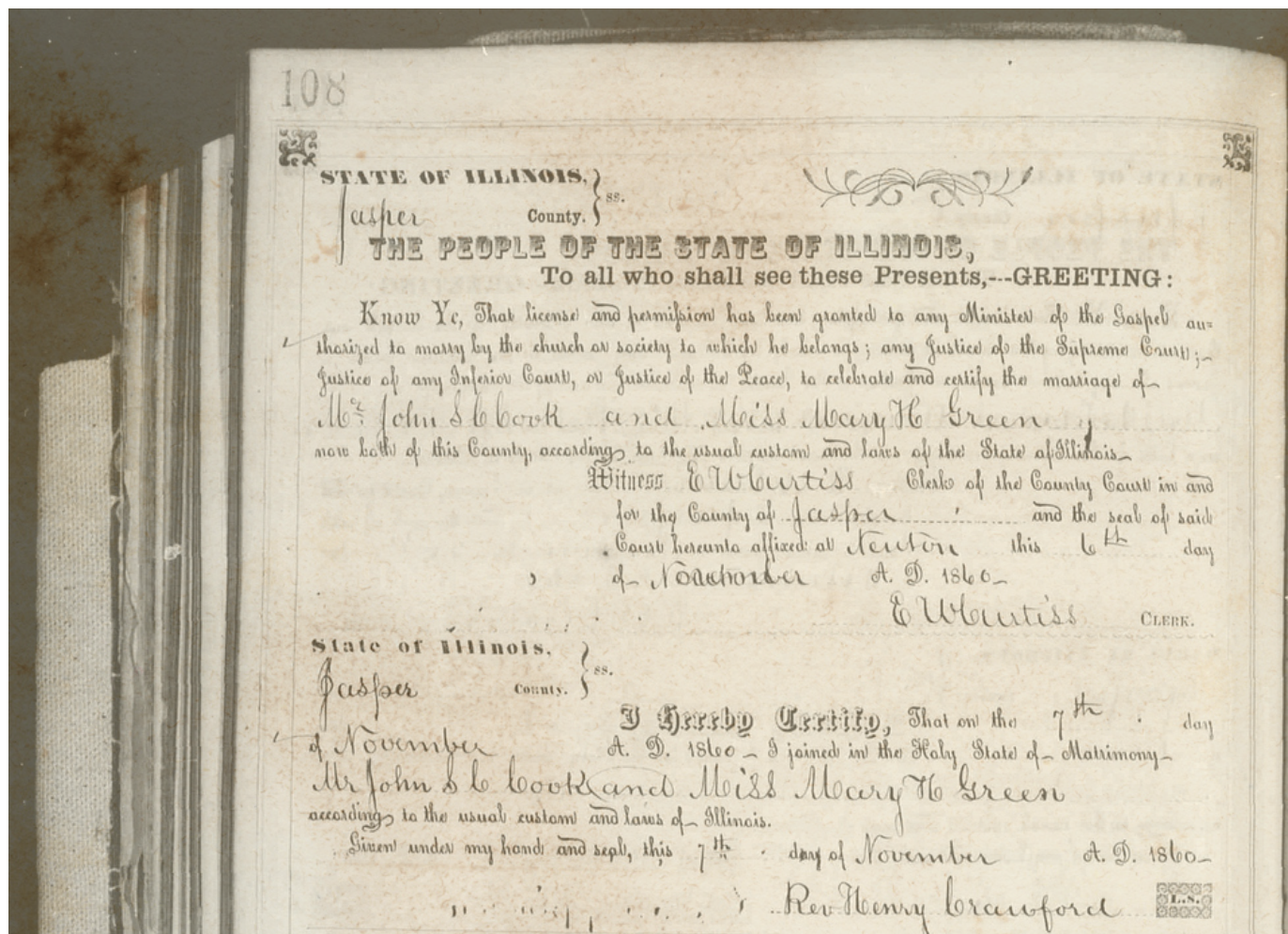
Thomas J. Brown D. D.

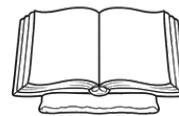
MARRIAGES.

80

1. Full Name of Bride. 2. Maiden Name, if a Widow. 3. Place of Residence.	1. Age next Birthday. 2. Race or Color. 3. Place of Birth.	1. Father's Name. 2. Mother's Maiden Name. 3. No. of Bride's Marriage.	1. Where and When Married. 2. Witnesses. 3. By whom Certified, Name and Office.	1. Date of Return. 2. When Registered.
1 Mary M Rude	1 38 years.	1 Wm Ensley Lewis	1 at Widow Elizabeth Lewis	Jan 31st 1884
2 Lewis	2 American	2 Elizabeth Ethison	2 Emma Drake Enock S Lewis	" " "
34 miles north Ingham Ill	3 Ingham Ill	3 2nd	3 J M Lollar a minister of the Gospel	" " "
1 Ora Belle Kibler	1 22 years.	1 Daniel Kibler	1 at Newton, Tucker County	Jan 21st 1884

For genealogical research, these documents are particularly valuable because they help establish family connections and timelines that might otherwise remain unclear. Of the three marriages, Cook's union with Mary Hannah Green (below) is especially significant to this lineage, as it produced their son William Albert Cook, the direct ancestor through whom this branch of the Cook family descends. Together, these records provide important evidence for reconstructing the Cook family's history and understanding how successive marriages shaped the generations that followed.





MARY H
WIFE OF
J. S. C. COOK
DIED
Aug. 6. 1864
AGED
20.Y 6M.12D

Devore Cemetery
Jasper County, Illinois

Mary Hannah Green was born on January 26, 1844, in Jasper County, Illinois, the daughter of Jeremiah "Jerry" Green and Chloe Dailey. At just sixteen years old, she married John Stiles Carter Cook on November 7, 1860, and the following year became the mother of their only child, William Albert Cook, born August 25, 1861, in South Muddy Township, Jasper County. Mary Hannah's life was brief; she died on August 6, 1864, at only twenty years of age. Although her marriage was short and produced only one son, that son became the sole descendant of her union with John Stiles Carter Cook and the direct ancestor through whom her legacy continues in our Cook family line.

Page No. 12

Supervisor's Dist. No. 7

Enumeration Dist. No. 164

Note A.—The Census Year begins June 1, 1879, and ends May 31, 1880.

Note B.—All persons will be included in the Enumeration who were living on the 1st day of June, 1880. No others will. Children BORN SINCE June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Members of Families who have DIED SINCE June 1, 1880, will be INCLUDED.

Note C.—Questions Nos. 13, 14, 22 and 23 are not to be asked in respect to persons under 10 years of age.

SCHEDULE I.—Inhabitants in *South Muddy*, in the County of *Jasper*, State of *Illinois*,
enumerated by me on the *11* day of June, 1880.

W. C. McLeary

Enumerator

In Cities.	House Number.	Name of Street.	The Name of each Person whose place of abode, on 1st day of June, 1880, was in this family.	Personal Description.	If born within the Census year, give the month.	Relationship of each person to the head of the family—whether wife, son, daughter, servant, lodger, or other.	Civil Condition.	Occupation.	Health.	Education.	Nativity.
1	104 107		Martha	W. F. 42		Wife	1	Keeping House			Indiana Ky Ind
2			Lydella	W. F. 21		Daughter					Illinois Ind Ind
3			John	W. F. 16		Son	1	Works on Farm			Illinois Ind Ind
4			Louisa	W. F. 10		Daughter					Illinois Ind Ind
5			Sarah	W. F. 8		Daughter					Illinois Ind Ind
6			Ripfield	W. M. 10		Son	1				Illinois Ind Ind
7			Richard	W. M. 2		Son	1				Illinois Ind Ind
8	105 108		Rhoads Louis	W. M. 30			1	Carpenter			Indiana Ky Ind
9			John	W. F. 16		Daughter		Keeping House			Indiana Ind Ind
10			Albert	W. M. 10		Son	1				Illinois Ind Ind
11			Frederick	W. M. 6		Son	1				Illinois Ind Ind
12			John	W. F. 4		Daughter					Illinois Ind Ind
13	106 109		McNew Elizabeth	W. F. 46			0	Keeping House			Ohio Pa. Pa.
14	107 110		John S. C. Cook	W. M. 41			1	Farmer			Indiana Pa. Pa.
15			William	W. F. 18		Wife	1	Keeping House			Indiana Ky Ind
16			William	W. M. 18		Son	1	Works on Farm			Illinois Ind Ind
17			John	W. M. 16		Son	1	Works on Farm			Illinois Ind Ind
18			Sarah	W. F. 14		Daughter					Illinois Ind Ind
19			Rosa	W. F. 7		Daughter					Illinois Ind Ind
20			John	W. M. 5		Son	1				Illinois Ind Ind
21			John	W. M. 2		Son	1				Illinois Ind Ind
22	108 111		Baron Eli	W. M. 50			1	Farmer			Indiana Pa. Ky
23			Baron	W. F. 18		Wife	1				Ind. Ind.
24			Baron	W. F. 16		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
25			Baron	W. F. 14		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
26			Baron	W. F. 12		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
27			Baron	W. F. 10		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
28			Baron	W. F. 8		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
29			Baron	W. F. 6		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
30			Baron	W. F. 4		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
31	109 112		Baron	W. F. 2		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
32			Baron	W. F. 1		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
33			Baron	W. F. 1		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
34			Baron	W. F. 1		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
35			Baron	W. F. 1		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
36			Baron	W. F. 1		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
37			Baron	W. F. 1		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
38			Baron	W. F. 1		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
39			Baron	W. F. 1		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
40			Baron	W. F. 1		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
41	111 114		Baron	W. F. 1		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
42			Baron	W. F. 1		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
43			Baron	W. F. 1		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
44			Baron	W. F. 1		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
45			Baron	W. F. 1		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
46	111 115		Baron	W. F. 1		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
47			Baron	W. F. 1		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
48			Baron	W. F. 1		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
49	112 116		Baron	W. F. 1		Daughter					Ind. Ind.
50			Baron	W. F. 1		Daughter					Ind. Ind.

1880 Federal US Census

South Muddy Township, Jasper County, Illinois

The 1880 United States Census for South Muddy Township in Jasper County, Illinois records the household of John S. C. Cook, documenting his family living and working in this rural farming community. Among those listed is his son, William Albert Cook, age 18, who is recorded as working on a farm. William Albert Cook is the direct ancestor through whom this branch of the Cook family descends.

This census provides an important glimpse into the family's daily life in the late nineteenth century. Like many young men of the era, William was already contributing to the household economy through agricultural labor, reflecting the central role of farming in the region. Records such as this help establish the Cook family's continued presence in South Muddy Township while also capturing William Albert Cook at the beginning of his adult life, just before he would establish his own household in the years that followed.



Written on Back: Front Row: Nellie (Scammahorn) Hays, Sarah (Cook) & David Scammahorn holding twins Frederick (Ted) and Fletcher Scammahorn, Dessie (Scammahorn) McKinney, John and Estelle (Spaks) Scammahorn, son Francis on her lap, Belva Scammahorn.

Back row Sam Scammahorn, Dorsen and John Styles Carter Cook (in door, brothers*) Henry and Ruth (Scammahorn) Marshall, Betha Scammahorn, Fred Shields.



Photo taken about 1904

*John S. C. Cook did not have a brother named Dorsen. However, his daughter, Rosa Ann Cook, married Dorsey Birch. It is likely that the reference to "Dorsen" is a misidentification or full name of Dorsey, who would therefore have been John Cook's son-in-law.



Nancy Ann Cook Ford



Rebecca "Kissie" Cook Swaim



Robert Cross Ford Family 50th Anniversary
Robert Cross Ford and Nancy Ann (Cook) Ford are seated in the center

NOTARIAL PUBLIC
IN THE PROSECUTION OF THIS CLAIM
I HAVE NO INTEREST, DIRECT OR INDIRECT, IN THE PROSECUTION OF THE
CLAIM, AND EXISTING TO THE

State of Illinois)
County of Jasper) ss.

John S. Cook, who being duly sworn upon oath, makes the following statements; that his post office address is Bogota, Illinois R.R. #1.; that he is abrother of Jacob Cook deceased, that said Jacob Cook dec'd, was a soldier in Company "K" 63d, Regt. Ill. Vol. in the war of the rebellion; that he was acquainted with said soldier (Jacob Cook) from his infancy to the date of his death, which was on or about the 1st, day of June A.D. 1906;; that the said soldier (Jacob Cook) deid leaving Mary E. Cook as his only widow him surviving; that the said Mary E. Cook lived with and cared for the said soldier (Jacob Cook) from the date of her marraige to him which was on or about the 24th day of February 1898 untill the time of his death, and that she still remains his widow. Affiant futher states that the said soldier (Jacob Cook), had been previously married as follows and no more:- that his first marriage was on or about the year 1859 or 1860 to one Nancy J. Cotrell, who died on or about the year 1861 or 1862; that his second marraige was on or about the year 1865 or 1866 to one Mary J. Snider, who died on or about the year 1891 or 1892; that his third marraige was on or about the year 1892 or 1893 to one Mary Bowers, who died on or about the year 1893; that his fourth mairrage was on or about the year 1893 or 1894 to one ~~Mary Bowers~~ Nancy J. Matlock who died on or about the year 1897; that his fifth and last marriage was on or about the 24th, day of February 1898 to one Mary Hardy, who still survives him as his only widow. Affiant futher states that the said soldier (Jacob Cook) during his lifetime was married five times and no more and that the parties named above and in the order that they are named were his only wives, and that the said soldier (Jacob Cook) was never married to any other woman or person except as above stated.

Futher affiant saith not.

Sworn to and suscribed before me this 23rd day of November A.D. 1906., and I hereby certify that the contents of the above declaration, etc., were fully made known and explained to the affiant before swearing, and that I have no interest, direct or indirect, in the prosecution of this claim.

(Seal)

*my commission
expires 1907. July 25.*



*J. B. Knapp
Notary Public*

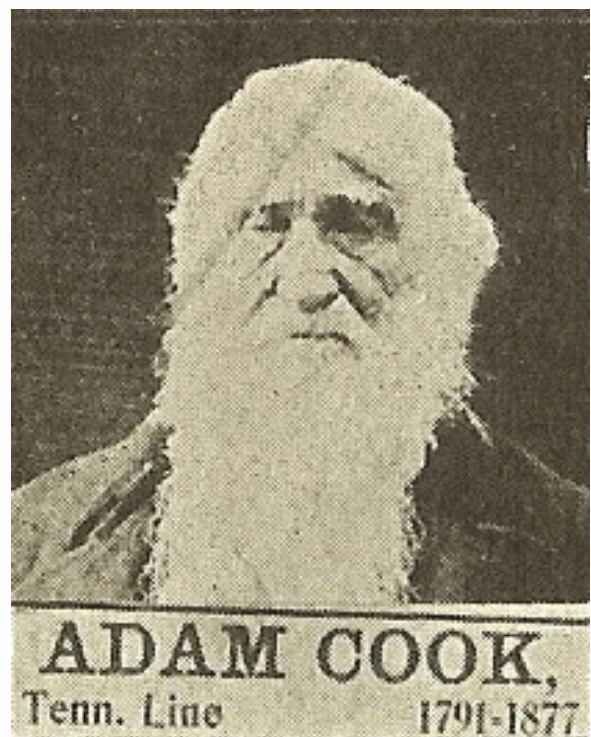
John's reliability and standing within the community are vividly illustrated by an affidavit he submitted in November 1906 in support of the Civil War pension claim of his brother, Jacob Cook, a veteran of Company K, 63rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Writing from Bogota, Jasper County, John testified under oath to Jacob's military service, date of death, and complex marital history, carefully enumerating five marriages and affirming that Mary E. Hardy Cook was Jacob's surviving widow. The affidavit demonstrates John's precision, credibility, and role as a trusted family witness at a time when pension claims depended heavily on sworn testimony.

By 1910, John remained in South Muddy Township, now seventy-two years old, married, and the owner of a farm held free of mortgage. Census records confirm his literacy and trace his parents' origins to Pennsylvania and Tennessee, situating the family within broader east-to-west migration patterns of the early nineteenth century. This final census appearance presents John as an established patriarch, rooted in place and economic independence.

John's identity as an early settler was publicly recognized in 1904 at the Fourth Annual Old Settlers' Reunion in Newton, Illinois, where he was noted as one of the oldest residents over fifty years of age who had never ridden on a railroad. The distinction symbolized a life shaped entirely within the rhythms of pre-industrial rural America, even as modernization transformed Illinois around him. John Stiles Carter Cook died in 1918, closing the chapter on the Cook family's landowning generation.

Told in reverse, the Cook family story reveals a steady retreat from landownership to wage labor, from independence to precarity. Arthur Raymond Cook's life—defined by Depression-era survival, industrial work, and adaptation—stands in stark contrast to the landholding stability achieved by his grandfather, John Stiles Carter Cook. Between them lies William Albert Cook, whose decades of labor bridged these two worlds without fully belonging to either.

Together, their lives form a continuous narrative of endurance and change, reflecting the broader transformation of rural Illinois families across the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.



Adam Cook is a War of 1812 veteran and
Uncle to J. S. C. Cook





INTRODUCTION TO THE KINGS

The King family lineage that stretches from Anderson County, Kentucky to DeKalb County, Illinois is emblematic of the broader migration of American families in the 19th century, driven by land opportunity, religious affiliation, and expanding settlement frontiers. The Kings were likely of Scots-Irish or English descent, part of the wave of settlers who originally came through Virginia, the Carolinas, or Pennsylvania before moving into Kentucky in the late 18th or early 19th century. Over time, the family moved northward into Illinois, establishing roots in the agriculturally rich lands of DeKalb County.

Anderson County, located in the Bluegrass region of central Kentucky, was established in 1827 from portions of Franklin, Mercer, and Washington Counties. Records suggest that the King family was present in this region even before its official formation. Census, land, and tax documents from the early 1800s point to several King households engaged in farming, often on modest holdings. The fertile land and proximity to trade routes made Anderson County a desirable place for families like the Kings, who were Methodist in religious orientation and heavily involved in local church life.

The patriarch of the King family in Anderson County during the early 1800s was Zachariah Ezekiel King born in Amherst Virginia in 1774 and was part of a generation that witnessed the transformation of Kentucky from a frontier into a state. The family would have endured the hardships of frontier life—clearing land, building homes, and establishing community institutions. As generations progressed, younger members of the family began to look westward and northward for new opportunities, particularly in Illinois, where the promise of affordable farmland and economic development drew thousands of Kentuckians.

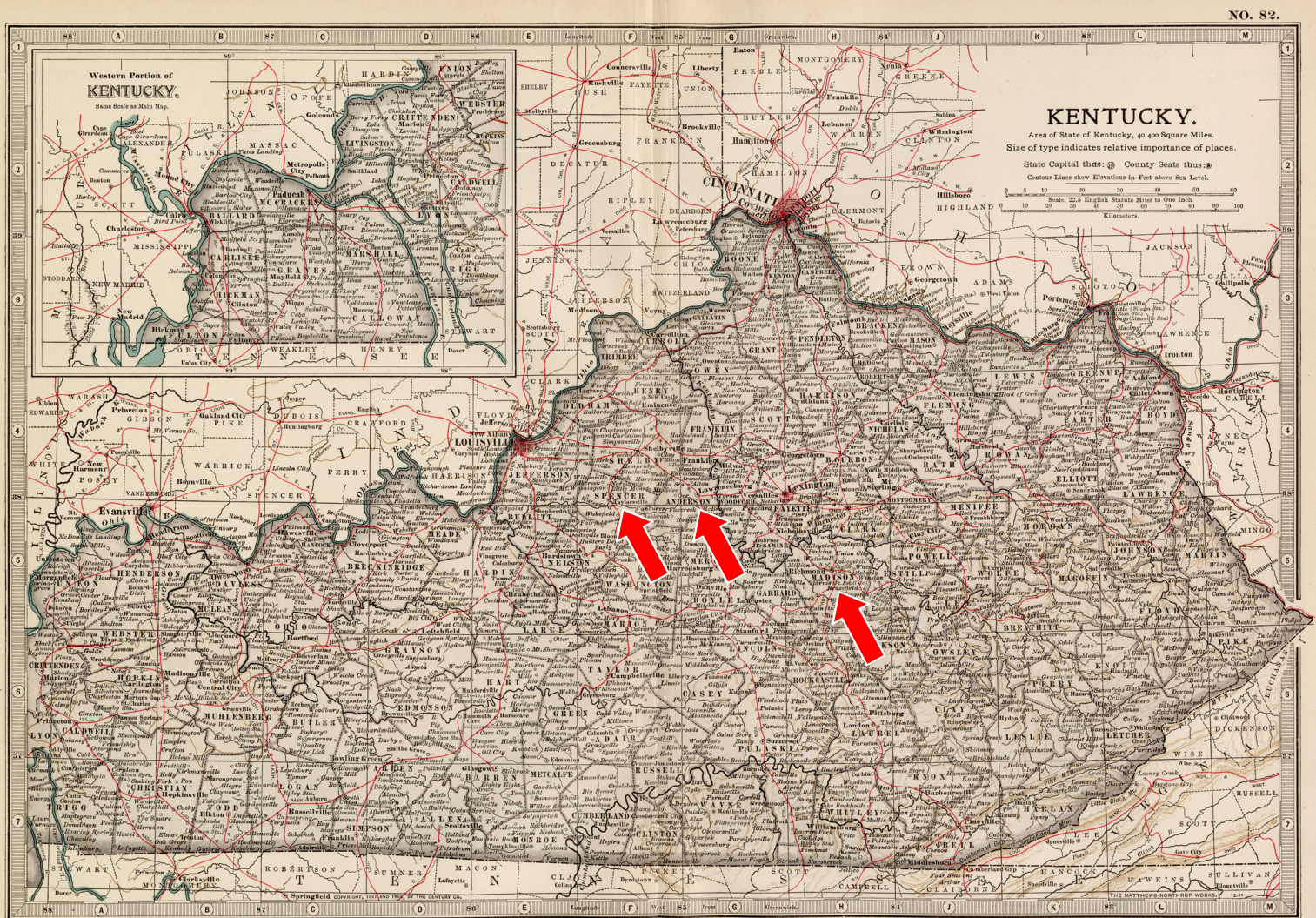
In 1917, our ancestor John W. King relocated to DeKalb County, Illinois, situated about 60 miles west of Chicago. Founded in 1837, DeKalb County was rapidly growing due to its location along new transportation routes, including railroads and automobiles. The move to Illinois was not only an economic decision but also a generational shift—away from the rural farm culture of the South toward the more industrial North. Like many families from Kentucky and Indiana, the Kings brought with them strong agrarian values, religious traditions, and a commitment to community.

In DeKalb County, the Kings intermarried with other local families, solidifying their place in the growing communities. Surnames like Cook, Nepean, and Braffet often appear in conjunction with the Kings, suggesting interconnected family networks that supported each other. The 1920 and 1930 federal censuses list several King households with roots traced directly back to Kentucky, showing continuity in occupation and naming traditions across generations.

By the mid 20th century, descendants of the original King migrants from Kentucky had established themselves in various roles in DeKalb County. While most left the life of farming behind, they found work in education, manufacturing, and small business.

Oral histories and family records passed down through generations preserve the memory of the family's southern roots in Anderson County and their transformation in Illinois. Military service was also a consistent theme—members of the King family served in the Civil War (often on the Union side), World War I, and World War II. These traditions highlight a family deeply embedded in the fabric of American social and civic life.

The genealogy of the King family from Anderson County, Kentucky to DeKalb County, Illinois illustrates the dynamic story of 19th-century American migration, identity, and adaptation. Rooted in the agricultural traditions of Kentucky, the family's move to Illinois marked a shift in opportunity, ideology, and community life.



This map highlights Madison, Anderson, and Spencer Counties, Kentucky—three locations that trace the life of Zachariah King. Born in Madison County, he spent much of his adult life in Anderson County, where he established his home and family. In his later years, he resided with relatives in Spencer County. Together, these counties illustrate the arc of his life and reflect the patterns of movement and family support common in 19th-century Kentucky.



KING

PATERNAL LINEAGE

ZACHARIAH E. KING

1774 – 1854

m. Lucretia “Cresy” Puckett



DRURY TUCKER KING

1800 – 1858

m. Sarah Sally Egerton



ZACHARIAH D. KING

1834 – 1913

m. Mary Frances “Polly” Hammack



JOHN W. KING

1867 – 1937

m. Mary Jane Stratton



ETHEL BRUCE KING

1907 – 1979

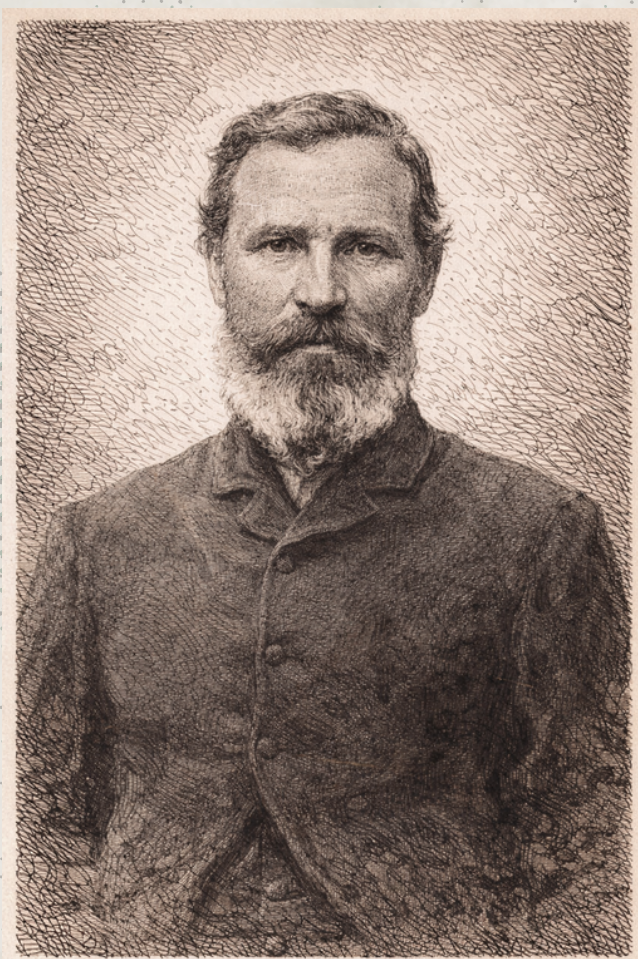
m. Arthur Raymond Cook Sr



A decorative border surrounds the central text. It consists of four corner squares and four side rectangles. The corner squares feature a complex interlocking knotwork pattern in gold on a green background. The side rectangles feature a repeating floral and foliate pattern in gold on a green background. The entire border is framed by a thin gold line.

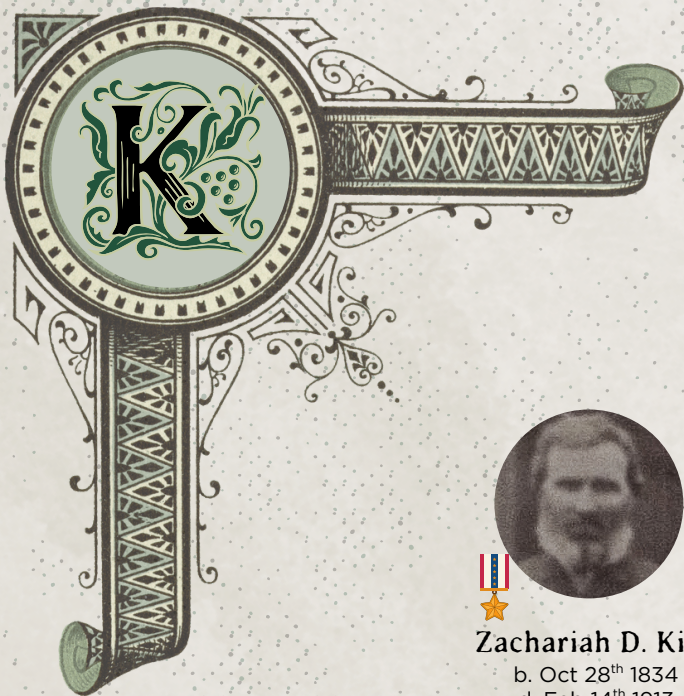
CHAPTER 11

ZACHARIAH & JOHN W.
K I N G



Zachariah Daniel “Zack” King was born 28 October 1834 in Madison County, Kentucky — a third-generation Kentuckian, descended from the Virginia-born Estill County settler, **Zachariah Ezekiel King**, and the Estill County farm line carried through his parents, **Drury Tucker King** (1800–1858) and **Sarah “Sally” Edgerton King** (1801–1880). This branch of the King family was firmly embedded in Kentucky’s inner Bluegrass region, where mixed agriculture, modest landholdings, and long-established kin networks shaped daily life. These communities would later find themselves pulled in opposing political directions, caught between Union loyalty and Southern identity. By 1850, Zack was living with his parents in Anderson County, where his father was recorded as a farmer with \$180 in real estate. The Kings were not transient Kentuckians — they were rooted.

On 1 November 1854, Zack married **Mary Frances “Polly” Hammack** in Anderson County. They would eventually raise eight children together in that region of central Kentucky, farming land worked by generations before them. As the national crisis deepened, families like the Kings would be forced to navigate divided loyalties while maintaining farms, marriages, and children at home. One of those children — **Daniel Tucker King**, born 28 April 1864 — was conceived while Zack was home on furlough during the Civil War, fully intertwining military service for the Union and family life in the most literal way.



Zachariah D. King

b. Oct 28th 1834
d. Feb 14th 1913



Mary "Polly" Hammack

b. May 15th 1835
d. Nov 12th 1913



Elizabeth J. King

b. Feb 10 1857
d. Jun 3 1858



Sarah F. King

b. 1859
d. Oct 22 1926
m. Preston Poulter



Emily J. King

b. Sep 23rd 1861
d. Mar 4th 1945
m. Van Hill



Daniel Tucker King

b. Apr 28th 1864
d. Jan 3rd 1893
m. Cornelia Caldwell



George G. King

b. Jan 25th 1866
d. Dec 13 1912
m. Kate Crook



John W. King

b. Apr 8th 1867
d. Jan 11th 1937
m. Mary Jane Stratton



William H. King

b. Dec 28 1872
d. Mar 18 1938
m. Ida Bee Stratton



Marion A. King

b. Oct 29th 1873
d. Nov 6 1964
m. Louisa E. Redman



Drury Tucker King
Father of Zachariah D. King

The name Drury Tucker King was almost certainly inspired by the prominent Amherst County, Virginia resident Drury Tucker (1719-1801)—a wealthy planter, enslaver, militia figure, and noted supporter of early religious freedom efforts in the colony. Tucker was a landowner of considerable local influence and the father of several Revolutionary War soldiers. His name appears frequently in the records of Amherst County during the mid- to late-18th century, where he was involved in civil matters, estate appraisals, and Baptist dissenting circles that challenged the colonial Anglican establishment.

Although no blood relationship is known or documented between the King family and Drury Tucker, there is a meaningful contextual link: Tucker maintained documented associations with the Puckett family of Amherst County. This connection is significant because Lucretia Puckett, mother of Drury Tucker King, was the daughter of John Bondurant Puckett, whose family lived in the same social and geographic orbit as the Tuckers, Bondurants, and related Amherst County families.

Naming children after prominent neighbors, respected community members, or allied families—especially those involved in local leadership, church life, or militia activity—was a common cultural practice in 18th- and early 19th-century Virginia. It often reflected admiration, affiliation, or patronage rather than direct kinship.

Taken together, this context strongly suggests that the name “Drury Tucker King” honored the respected figure of Drury Tucker through Lucretia Puckett’s family ties and community proximity, rather than through any genealogical descent.



Commonwealth of Ky
 County of Anderson
 Personally appeared before me a justice
 of the Peace for State & County foresaid
 B. S. Strange and states that he
 is 68 years old and has known
 Zachariah King and his wife Mary
 King ever since they were married
 and know they lived together from the
 time they was married until his death
 without separation this July 21 1913

Subscribed and sworn to
 before me Aug 7 1913
 Loyd Simpson JPAC

PO Siani Ky

CERTIFICATE
 AUG 13 1913
 OFFICE

Commonwealth of KY

County of Anderson

Personally appeared before me, a justice of the peace for
 state & county foresaid, B. S. Strange and states that he is 68
 years old and has known Zachariah King and his wife Mary
 King ever since they were married and known they lived
 together from the time they was married until his death
 without separation this July 21 1913

PO Siani KY

Subscribed and sworn to before me Aug 7 1913

Loyd Simpson JPAC

RALLY, YOUNG MEN OF KENTUCKY!—We are authorized to raise a Company of Infantry, to be mustered into the service of the United States, to be called the Anderson Rifles, in honor of the hero of Fort Sumpter, and to compose a part of the regiment now being raised by Colonels Pope and Jonett and Major Campbell. The company will be composed of from 85 to 101 men. All who desire to unite with us can apply at headquarters, opposite the Hope Engine-house, on First street, between Green and Jefferson.

We hope that this call will meet with a patriotic response. Kentucky has been wantonly invaded by those who are enemies not only of our State, but of our common country. The freemen of Kentucky cannot submit to such an indignity without losing the respect of their fellow-men. Let the invader be driven from our soil at whatever cost of blood and treasure.

W. B. HEGAN, Captain.

W. W. WOODRUFF, 1st Lieut.

Louisville, Sept. 10, 1861. a10 b1&j14*

ELECTION NOTICE.

An election will be held in the Sixth Ward on Saturday, September 21st, 1861, to elect a member of the Board of Common Council, to fill the unexpired term of W. H. Dulaney resigned.

The officers serving at the last election will officiate at this, and call at the office of the Clerks of the General Council for the poll-books.

J. M. DELPH, Mayor.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, Louisville, Sept 16, 1861.

[Democrat copy.] a16 d5

TO THE YOUNG MEN OF KENTUCKY.

By the authority, and for the service of the Government of the United States, I propose to organize in Kentucky a regiment of cavalry, to serve three years or during the war, to consist of ten companies, each company to contain not less than eighty-four nor more than one hundred and four rank and file.

Horses and equipments will be furnished by the Government.

Volunteers owning good horses can have them appraised, mustered into the service, and paid for by the mustering officer.

The Captains and Lieutenants are to be elected by the companies respectively.

Captains of companies will report to me at the Galt House in Louisville as soon as practicable. No company must be removed from its point of organization until ordered into camp. Transportation to the point of rendezvous will be furnished. None but active vigorous men and men of steady habits will be received.

Capt. Richard W. Johnson, of the regular army, has been detailed to act as Lieutenant-Colonel. I intend to make this regiment in all respects equal to the best drilled and disciplined corps in the regular army.

I know this call will be patriotically answered. The soil of Kentucky has been wantonly invaded.

J. S. JACKSON.

LOUISVILLE, September 6, 1861.

Although there is no direct evidence linking Zachariah King to this specific newspaper notice, its publication only days before his enlistment places it squarely within the atmosphere that surrounded his decision. Printed in Louisville in September 1861, such calls to arms were common, visible reminders of the escalating conflict and of Kentucky's precarious position between Union and secession. By framing enlistment as a defense of both the United States and Kentucky itself—rather than a purely political act—these notices helped normalize Union service for Kentucky men who wished to protect their communities while remaining loyal to the federal government.

Zachariah King enlisted on September 25, 1861—just three days after the birth of his third child, Emily King—highlighting the immediacy and personal cost of his decision. He would not be formally mustered into federal service until January 2, 1862, a delay typical of many early-war Kentucky volunteers as companies organized, equipped, and awaited acceptance into United States service. While the article cannot be cited as a direct influence, it reflects the recruitment rhetoric and public sentiment that formed the backdrop to his enlistment, shaped by appeals to duty, defense, and loyalty during Kentucky's uncertain opening months of the Civil War.

The Courier-Journal

Louisville, Kentucky • Fri, Sep 20, 1861 Page 3

When Zack enlisted at Harrodsburg in September 1861 and mustered in January 1862 into Company E, 19th Regiment Kentucky Infantry, he entered the fluid, mobile war of the western rivers — not the textbook war of battles and flags. He did not go alone. His younger brother Garland King (born 1839) enlisted with him in the same Company E — and Garland did not survive. He died of disease only days after muster, on 14 January 1862 in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. The King boys entered the war together, but only one of them came home.

The 19th Kentucky Infantry spent significant time on detail work, guarding wagon trains, escorting supply, and supporting the movement of gunboats along the Red River corridor in Louisiana. It was during one of these assignments that Zack's life permanently changed.

In a sworn statement dated 26 July 1881, former soldier John Murphy testified that he was with Zack at Franklin, Louisiana, on detail guarding a wagon train headed toward Alexandria. After turning the wagon train over, they were placed on a work detail:

"we were put to bailing cotton and timbers damning up Red River to get gunboats out"

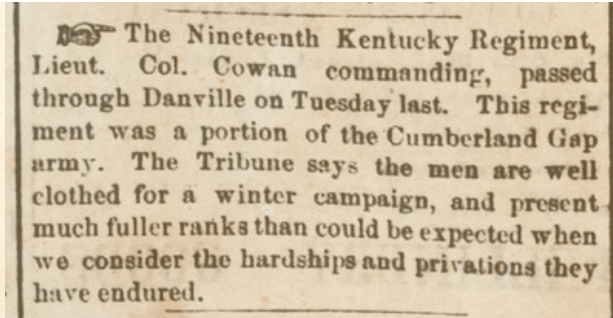
While lifting a cotton bale in this labor assignment, Zack suddenly collapsed. Murphy stated under oath that Zack "gave way then complained of the hernia" — and that from that moment forward Zack "was not able to do but very light service after that hurt." Murphy further testified that he examined the hernia again some years later and the rupture still existed.

This moment — in the deep interior of Louisiana, lifting cotton for the Union's Red River operations — was the origin of the injury that followed Zack for the remainder of his life. This testimony is also geographically consistent with Union operations along the Red River in the 1864-1865 period.

<i>K</i>	19	Ky.
<i>Zachariah King</i>		
<i>Pvt.</i> , Co. E, 19 Reg't Kentucky Infantry.		
Appears on		
Company Muster Roll		
for <i>Jan 2, 1862</i> , to <i>Feb 28</i> , 1862.		
date <i>Mar 14, 1862</i> Present or absent <i>Present</i>		
Stoppage, \$ <i>100</i> for		
Due Gov't, \$ <i>100</i> for		
Remarks: <i>Mustered into U.S. service</i>		
<i>2d January, 1862, at Harrods-</i>		
<i>burg, Ky. by Capt. H. C. Bask.</i>		
<i>head. U.S.A. Worked on road</i>		
<i>from 26 Jan. 1862, to 5 Feb.</i>		
<i>1862.</i>		
Book mark:		
<i>Ballou</i>		
(858)		Copyist

The 19th Regiment Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, and specifically Company E where **Zachariah King** was a soldier, served with distinction during the American Civil War as part of the Union Army. Organized at Camp Harrod in Harrodsburg, Kentucky, between January and March 1862, the regiment was composed largely of men from central and southern Kentucky—a region deeply divided in its loyalties. Company E was one of ten companies raised as part of the regiment and was likely comprised of local farmers, tradesmen, and laborers determined to preserve the Union despite widespread Confederate sympathy in Kentucky.

The 19th Kentucky Infantry was mustered into federal service under Colonel William J. Landram, a prominent Unionist lawyer and officer from Kentucky. Company E, like the rest of the regiment, underwent initial training and organization at Camp Harrod before being ordered to serve in the Western Theater. In early 1862, the regiment moved to Cynthiana, Kentucky, where they engaged in garrison and security duties, a crucial task in a state rife with guerrilla activity and Confederate recruitment. Shortly after, the regiment joined Union operations in Tennessee and Mississippi, participating in the campaign against Confederate forces in the western river valleys. During this time, Company E and its fellow companies were assigned duties ranging from provost guard to picket lines, and eventually began seeing combat.



The Courier-Journal

Louisville, Kentucky • Mon, Nov 17, 1862 Page 3

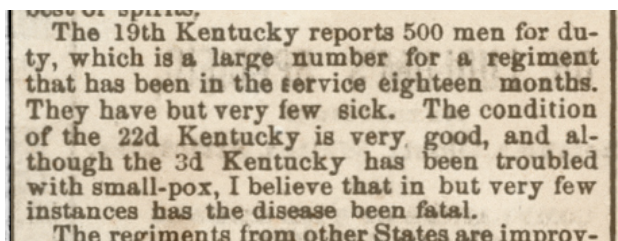
One of the most significant chapters in Company E's wartime service was its involvement in the Vicksburg Campaign of 1863, under the overall command of General Ulysses S. Grant. The 19th Kentucky Infantry was attached to the XIII Corps and participated in the grueling effort to gain control of the Mississippi River. After several months of hard marching, skirmishes, and logistical strain, the regiment took part in the Siege of Vicksburg from May to July 1863.

During the siege, Company E endured brutal trench warfare, constant artillery shelling, disease outbreaks, and severe shortages of supplies. Despite these hardships, the Union's success at Vicksburg proved to be a turning point in the war. The fall of the Confederate stronghold effectively split the Confederacy in two and gave the Union control of the Mississippi River.

After the victory at Vicksburg, Company E and the 19th Kentucky were redeployed to Louisiana and took part in the ill-fated Red River Campaign in the spring of 1864. Led by General Nathaniel Banks, this campaign aimed to assert Union control over western Louisiana and push into Texas. However, the Union force encountered fierce resistance and suffered from poor planning and logistics. The 19th Kentucky, including Company E, fought in several engagements, including the battles of Sabine Crossroads (Mansfield) and Pleasant Hill. These were costly battles, and although tactically inconclusive, they forced the Union army to retreat.

Despite the campaign's failure, Company E performed with honor and discipline under fire. Many soldiers were wounded or killed, while others were captured or fell ill in the swamps and forests of Louisiana.

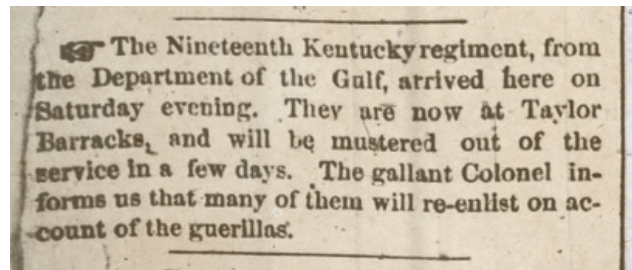
Following the Red River Campaign, the regiment returned to Mississippi and Louisiana for garrison duty. Company E helped maintain Union authority in occupied territory and guarded supply lines and key infrastructure. Though less dramatic than frontline combat, these duties were essential for the Union war effort and often placed soldiers in danger from Confederate raiders and disease.



The 19th Kentucky reports 500 men for duty, which is a large number for a regiment that has been in the service eighteen months. They have but very few sick. The condition of the 22d Kentucky is very good, and although the 3d Kentucky has been troubled with small-pox, I believe that in but very few instances has the disease been fatal. The regiments from other States are improv-

The Courier-Journal

Louisville, Kentucky • Fri, Apr 17, 1863 Page 1



The Nineteenth Kentucky regiment, from the Department of the Gulf, arrived here on Saturday evening. They are now at Taylor Barracks, and will be mustered out of the service in a few days. The gallant Colonel informs us that many of them will re-enlist on account of the guerillas.

The Courier-Journal

Louisville, Kentucky • Mon, Jan 9, 1865 Page 3

By the end of 1864, the original enlistments for many soldiers had expired. The regiment was gradually reduced in number and eventually consolidated with the 7th Kentucky Veteran Volunteer Infantry. Company E, along with its parent regiment, was mustered out of service on January 26, 1865.

Over the course of its service, the 19th Kentucky lost nearly 200 men to combat and disease—a reflection of the hardships faced by Civil War soldiers. The men of Company E, like their comrades across the regiment, served in some of the war's most demanding campaigns and emerged with a reputation for steadfastness and courage.

Today, the legacy of Company E endures in Kentucky's Civil War history. Descendants of its soldiers continue to research and commemorate their service, and historical societies throughout the state preserve records and artifacts from their time in the Union Army.

NINETEENTH KENTUCKY INFANTRY.—This regiment has been for a long time past on duty near the lower Mississippi, and was with Barks in his disastrous Red river expedition. The portion of the regiment which escaped capture on that occasion, the Danville Tribune says, has been transferred to the Army of the Potomac via New Orleans. There is no regiment in the service from our State that has gone over more ground or endured more fatiguing outres than the 19th. We take great pleasure in presenting the following letter from Colonel William J. Landram, of the 19th, which contains the latest direct intelligence we have received from the regiment:

SIMSPOBT, LA., May 19, 1864.

For the satisfaction of the friends and relatives of the officers and soldiers of the 4th division, 13th army corps, who were engaged in the battle of Mansfield or Sabine Cross-roads, on the 8th ultimo, I would respectfully ask that you publish this note. The regiments of this division engaged were the 19th Kentucky, 23d Wisconsin, 67th Indiana, 77th and 130th Illinois, 48th, 83d, and 96th Ohio. The batteries were the "Chicago Mercantile," Nims's Massachusetts, and Klauss's 1st Indiana.

Our whole force engaged did not exceed in infantry 2,500, that of the enemy being 20,000. The fight with this division lasted from one and a half to two hours—resulting in our defeat. The chief loss sustained was by the 19th Kentucky, 48th Ohio, 77th and 130th Illinois.

I am satisfied that our loss in killed and wounded was not near so large as in prisoners—for whilst our men were holding the enemy in front, they were rifling our knapsacks in the rear. Nothing but the overwhelming force of the enemy caused the disaster; for our men fought with a desperation worthy of the heroes of Vicksburg. Such is the testimony of the commander of the department, as well as Gen. Ransom, Gen. Franklin, and every other general officer present.

Of the circumstances leading to the engagement, it is improper to speak, as it is contrary to military rule to publish official reports. It is sufficient to say that in all we did we simply obeyed orders.

Col. J. W. Vance, 96th Ohio, commanding 2d brigade, was killed. Col. Frank Emerson, 67th Indiana, commanding 1st brigade, was wounded and captured. Lieut. Col. John Cowan, commanding 19th Kentucky, was wounded in the arm and captured. His wound, as well as that of Col. Emerson, is not dangerous. Major Mann, of the 19th Kentucky, is a prisoner, and not hurt. Adjutant Geo. Rue is reported as wounded in the head.

Lieutenant-Colonel Lindsey, 48th Ohio, is wounded and a prisoner. Major Berring, of said regiment, is reported killed. Major Reid, who commanded the 130th Illinois, was wounded and has since died.

From conversation had with prisoners captured yesterday, I learn that our prisoners have been sent to Tyler, Texas. They were very kindly treated. The wounded also received every attention bestowed upon those of the iron army.

The loss of the enemy in the first day's fight was very heavy—their Medical Director, Dr. Yandell, admitting 1,500 killed and wounded.

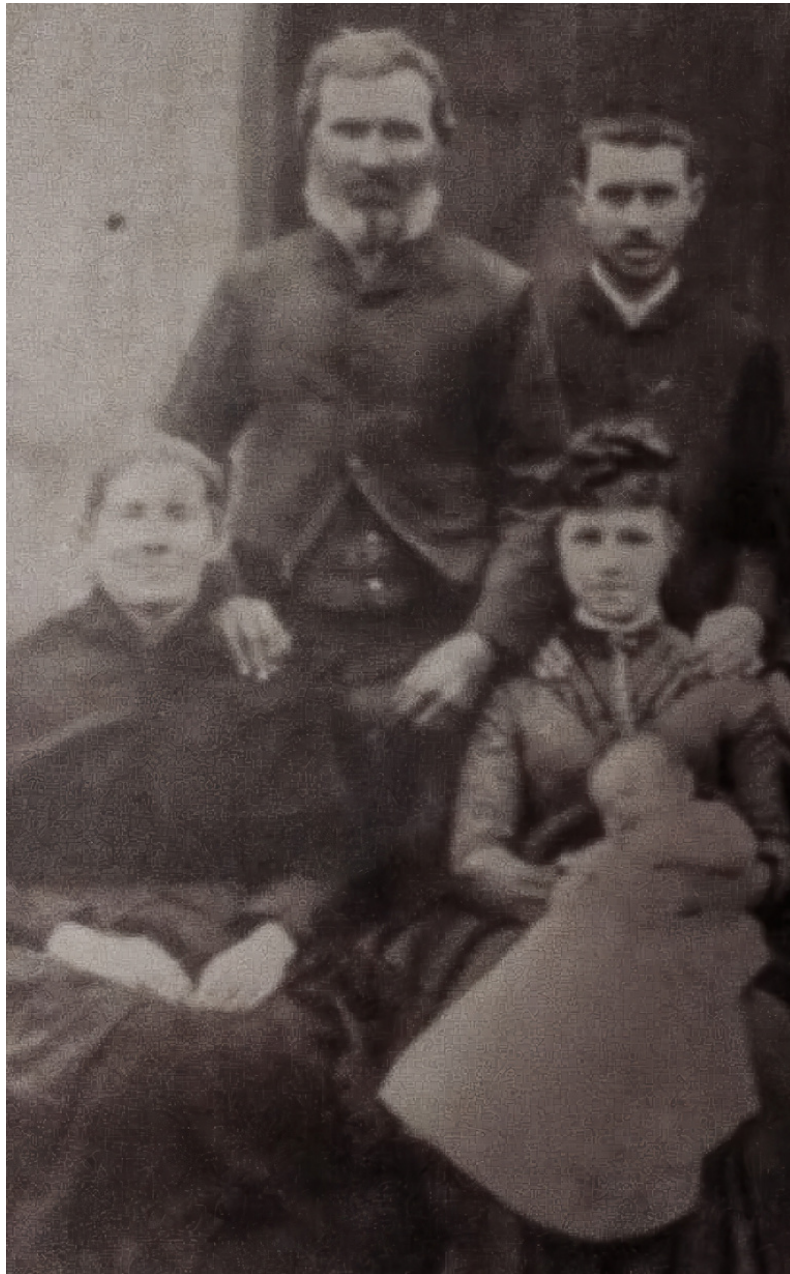
Companies I and C, of the 19th Kentucky, lost but few, being detached on the field for some purpose. There are only 175 of that regiment with us at present.

Let the friends and relatives of the officers and men of these regiments be of good cheer, as every effort will be made to have them promptly exchanged. Gen. Taylor has already agreed to do so, and will parole such as we have not men to exchange for.

I shall use every exertion to find out particulars concerning the prisoners, and will report from time to time.

In every engagement since the 8th our army has been victorious. General A. J. Smith attacked them yesterday near this place and defeated Poleack, capturing 200 prisoners, and killing and wounding a large number.

Respectfully,
W. J. LANDRAM,
Colonel 19th Ky., commanding 4th Division,
13th A. C.



Back: Zachariah and his son George Garland King
Front: Their wives, Mary Polly (Hammack) King and Kate (Crook) King
holding her first son, Elmer G. King. Circa 1888





The "Old Leathers Home" - home of Zachariah King and Mary Jane Stratton
Anderson, Kentucky



Colorized using Adobe Firefly AI

DEPOSITION *H* *Continued*Case of *Zachariah King*, No. *179589*

On this *6th* day of *January*, 1883, at
near Leathers Store, County of *Anderson*
 State of *Kentucky*, before me, *John C. Parcel*, a
 Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared
Mary King, who, being by me first duly sworn to answer
 truly all interrogatories propounded to her during this Special Examination of afore-
 said pension claim, deposes and says: *her age is forty eight years*
her residence is Anderson County Kentucky
and her P.O. address is Leathers Store Ky.

Q. Are you related to the claimant and if so
 what is that relationship

A. Yes sir I am his wife

Q. Is the claimant disabled in any way
 for the performance of manual labor

A. Yes sir

Q. What is the nature of that disability

A. When I speak of it to any one I always
 speak of it in the way that I know
 of it as rupture

Q. On what part of his body is it located

A. On the right side of his bowels I believe

Q. When did you first become ac-
 quainted with the fact that he was
 ruptured

A. Directly he came out of the army but
 I don't remember exactly. I remember
 that he spoke of it to me and I noticed
 it before Mr Philip Johnson was at
 our house. It was inside of a month
 and probably less. He had spoken of it before
 that when he first came home as a cold pain
 and said it was in his groin and when I
 noticed it I said do you call that your
 groin I call that your bowels those

Deposition H ~~Continued~~

Case of Zachariah King, No. 179589

On this 6th day of January 1883 at near Leather Store, County Anderson, State of Kentucky, before me, John Parcel, a special examiner of the pension office, personally appeared Mary King, who being by me first duly sworn to answer truly all interrogatories propounded to her during this Special Examination of aforesaid pension claim, deposes and says her age is forty eight years her residence is Anderson County KY and her PO Address is Leather Store KY.

Q: Are you related to the claimant and if so, what is that relationship?

A: Yes sir, I am his wife

Q: Is the claimant disabled in any way for the performance of manual labor?

A: Yes sir

Q: What is the nature of that disability?

A: When I speak of it to any one I always speak of it in the way that I know of it as rupture

Q: On what part of his body is it located?

A: On the right side of his bowels I believe

Q: When did you first become acquainted with the fact that he was ruptured?

A: Directly he came out of the army, but I don't remember exactly. I remember that he spoke of it to me and I noticed it before Mr Philip Johnson was at our house. It was inside of a month and probably less. He had spoke of it before that when he first came home as a cold pain and said it was his groin and where I noticed it I said do you call that your groin, I call that your bowels. Those are the words that took place between us.

Q: Was he ever known to complain in that way before he went into the Army?

A: Not at all

Q: Did you get any letters from him or any word from him in any way while he was in the Army?

A: Yes sir, I got letters from him regularly

Q: Did he or not ever mention anything about his state of health in those letters?

A: Yes sir, he mentioned about being hurt and about being sick afterward and of being treated by a Dr Sadler to the best of my recollection but the children have cut them up for the pictures.

Mary King

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6th day of January 1883 and I certify that the contents were fully made known to deponent before signing

Johnie Parcel
Special Examiner

(3-146.)

DEPOSITION

Case of Zachariah King, No. 179,587

On this 3rd day of January, 1883, at Leathers' Store, County of Anderson, State of Kentucky, before me, John G. Parcel, a Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared Philip S. Johnson, who being by me first duly sworn to answer truly all interrogatories propounded to him during this Special Examination of office and pension claim, deposes and says: His age is about fifty-five years, his residence is Anderson Co. Ky., His P.O. is Leathers' Store, Ky. and his occupation is that of a farmer and Veterinary Surgeon.

Q: Are you acquainted with the claimant and if so how long have you known him?

A: I think I became acquainted with him in 1851 or 1852 and have known him pretty much ever since.

Q: What was his physical condition prior and up to his enlistment in the army?

A: If there was any insufficiency about him I never knew it. He and his father used to work for me ^{before the war} and there was only a small farm lying between us. He was an ambitious boy and he and I had many a tussle and I never heard him complain in any way.

Q: What was his physical condition on his return home from the army immediately after his discharge from said service?

A: As well as I can recollect it was in February 1865, he asked me to examine the lower part of his bowels to see what ailed him and I told him he was ruptured. I asked him how it happened as well as I recollect

Page 31 Exhibit A

Page 32

and he said, "Lifting at cotton sales in Louisiana." That was the first I ever knew him to be affected in any way whatever.

Q: What time in Feb. 1865 was that?

A: As near as I can now recollect it was somewhere between the 12 and 15.

Q: How do you fix the date?

A: I lived then in the edge of Washington County and I came over to see him and it was meeting day at the church, which was Sunday and the meetings were then held on the second Sunday in the month.

Q: Had he or not been ruptured or hurt some way after his discharge and prior to your seeing his injury?

A: Not that I ever knew or heard of; that was the first that I ever knew or heard about it at all. If he had I think I should have known it.

Q: Has it or not continued to the present date?

A: Yes sir that is my understanding I have examined him once since and it seems to be larger than when I first examined it and he frequently told me that it hurt him.

Q: When did you examine him last?

A: I don't recollect but it has been something near two years I think.

Q: On which side is he ruptured?

A: In the right groin.

Q: How much has he been disabled each year since his discharge by reason of his said rupture?

A: I hardly know how to come at it. I know what I know of him and pray what he has said to me about it and of the opinion that he cannot make more than a half hand.

Q: Are you related to the claimant or in any way interested in his person?

A: Not at all.

Philip S. Johnson

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3rd day of January, 1883, and I certify that the contents were fully made known to him before signing.

John G. Parcel
Special Examiner.

(3038-3039) 3-146

Deposition G
Case of Zachariah King, No. 179,589

On this the 3rd day of January, 1883 at Leathers Store, County of Anderson, State of Kentucky, before me, John G Parcel, a Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared Philip S. Johnson, who being by me first duly sworn to answer truly all interrogatories propounded to him during this special Examination of aforesaid pension claim, deposes and says: his age is about fifty five years his residence is Anderson Co KY. His PO is Leathers Store, KY and his occupation is that of a farmer and veterinary surgeon.

Q: Are you acquainted with the claimant and if so how long have you known him

A: I think I became acquainted with him in 1851 or 1852 and have known him pretty much ever since

Q: What was his physical condition prior and to his enlistment in the army

A: If there was any insufficiency about him I never knew it. He and his father used to work for me before the war and there was only a small farm lying between us. He was an ambitious boy and he and I had many a tussle and I never heard him complain in any way

Q: What was his physical condition on his return home from the army immediately after his discharge from service

A: As well as I can recollect it was in February 1865 he asked me to examine the lower part of his bowels to see what ailed him I told him he was ruptured I asked him how it happened as well as I recollect

Page 31 Exhibit G

Page 32

and he said lifting at cotton bales in Louisiana That was the first I ever knew him to be affected in any way whatever

Q: What time in Feb 1865 was that

A: As near as I can now recollect it was somewhere between the 12 and 15

Q: How do you fix the date

A: I lived then in the edge of Washington County and I came over to see him and it was meeting day at the church which was Sunday and the meetings were then held on the second Sunday in the month

Q: Had he or not been ruptured or hurt some way after his discharge and prior to your seeing his injury

- Not that I ever knew or heard of that was the first that I ever knew or heard about it at all If he had I think I should have known

Q: Has it or not continued to the present date

- Yes sir that is my understanding I have examined him once since and it seemed to be larger than when I first examined it and he frequently told me that it hurt him

Q: When did you examine him last

A: I don't recollect the day It has been something near two years I think

Q: On which side is he ruptured

A: In the right groin

Q: How much has he been disabled each year since his discharge by reason of his said rupture

A: I hardly knowin him to come at it from what I know of him and from what he has said to me about it I am of the opinion that he cannot make more than a half hand

Q: Are you related to the claimant or in any way interested in his pension

A: not at all

Philip T Johnson

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3rd day of January

1883 and I certify that the contents were fully made know the deponent before signing

John Leparcel

Special Examiner



This 1883 deposition from the Civil War pension file of Zachariah King (No. 179,589) holds important genealogical value because it preserves firsthand testimony about King's life before and after the war. The statement was given by Philip S. Johnson, a longtime neighbor in Anderson County, Kentucky, who reported knowing King since about 1851 or 1852, when King and his father worked for him on a nearby farm. Johnson testified that King had been healthy and physically capable prior to his enlistment, and that the rupture for which he later sought a pension was first examined by him in February 1865 shortly after King returned home from service.

In addition to documenting the origin of King's wartime injury, the deposition provides valuable context about King's early life, community ties, and residence in Anderson County before the Civil War, illustrating the type of personal details and relationships often preserved within federal pension records.

Exhibit No.

State of Kentucky }
County of Anderson } S.S.

In the matter of the Invalid Pension
Claim of Zachariah King, No. 179,589; On this day of
26 day of July A.D. 1881; personally appeared before me
a ~~justice of the peace~~ ^{Clerk of the Anderson County Court} and for said County, duly
authorized to administer oaths, John Murphy
aged 38 years a resident of Anderson County in the
State of Kentucky, well known to me to be reputable
and entitled to Credit and who, being duly sworn,
declares in relation to aforesaid Case, as follows:

That he was a member of the 19th Reg. Ky. Inf. that
said Zachariah King belonged to same Reg. Co. (E) 19
Reg. Ky. Inf. Bn. and that he was with said King
at Franklin Louisiana ^{where we were detailed to} guarding Wagon Train to
Alexandria, then turned over to Port Train. where we
were put to hauling Cotton, and timbers damming up
Red River to get gun boats out. that said King
complained while we were lifting at a Cotton ^{baile} ~~baile~~ ^{Said}

King Sadoleub gave way then complained of the Hernia
that he is Saddle back that said Hernia still exists. he saw it 3 years
ago that I knew the facts at the time I was alone

was lifting at the same Cotton Baile. That King was
not able to do but very light service after that hurt
that his said Company was all on the detail; Co (E)
Kings, Company was only said King was on the detail
that I have no interest in the prosecution of this
Claim.

Jas. M. Nash, Sr.

} John ^{his} Murphy
mark

Page 63 Exhibit No. 1
Corbin Butterbock

State of Kentucky
County of Anderson SS

In the matter of the invalid pension Claim of Zachariah King No. 179,589 on this the 26th day of July A.D. 1881 personally appeared before me, Clerk of Anderson County Court, and for said county, duly authorized to administer oaths, John Murphy, aged 38 years a resident of Anderson County in the state of Kentucky well known to me to be reputable and entitled to credit and who being duly sworn declares in relation to afoesaid Pase, as follows:

That he was a member of the 19th Reg KY Infnt that said Zachariah King belonged to the same Co E 19th Reg KY Inf Vols and that he was with said King at Franklin Louisiana guarding waggon train to Alexandria, then turned over to that train where we were put to bailing cotton and timbers damning up Red River to get gun boats out that said King complained while we were lifting at a cotton bail said King suddenly gave way then complained of the hernia that he is ----- That said hernia still exists he saw it 3 years ago that I knew. The facts at the time It was done was lifting at the same cotton bail that King was not able to do but very light service after that hurt. That his said company was all on the detail Kings company was only said King was on the detail that I have no interest in the prosecution of this claim

This affidavit, dated July 26, 1881, was submitted as supporting testimony in the Civil War pension claim of Zachariah King, a veteran of Company E, 19th Kentucky Infantry Regiment. In the statement, fellow soldier John Murphy, also a member of the same regiment, recounts a specific incident that occurred while their unit was stationed at Franklin, Louisiana during operations along the Red River. Murphy describes how King sustained a hernia while lifting a heavy cotton bale as part of a work detail assigned to move cotton and timber used to dam the river and free stranded Union gunboats. The affidavit further notes that King immediately complained of the injury and was unable to perform more than light duty afterward. Murphy's testimony, given under oath and based on firsthand observation, served as crucial corroborating evidence for King's disability claim. Such affidavits were often required by the federal pension system to verify that an injury occurred during military service, making this document an important piece of evidence linking King's wartime labor to the long-term disability for which he sought government support.

PENSION AFFIDAVIT.

State of Kentucky }
County of Anderson } ss.

In the matter of The Pension Claim of No 237,508
Co E 19th Regt Ky Vols of Jacobiah King
personally came before me, a Notary Public, in and for
aforesaid County and State. David L Strutton, aged 47 years,
residing at Hookpole, well known to me to be reputable

and entitled to credit, who having been duly sworn declares in relation to the aforesaid case as follows:

the affiant State that i am well
acquainted with the above claimant
for 35 years and that i saw him
just after he was discharged and came
home in 1865 and that he was
complaining of having rheumatism
and a heating in his back
and i have seen him ever 2 or 3
weeks ever year since his discharge till
this present time 1890 and he
was complaining all of the time and
i have known him to be laid up at
different times all of the years for 3 or 4
weeks at a time and i consider
him one half disabled from performing
manual labor i am acquainted with
these facts from living a near
neighbor ever since 1865 until the
present time 1890

My postoffice address is Hookpole Anderson Co Ky

I further declare that I have no interest in the case, and am not concerned in its prosecution.

David L Strutton

If affiant signs by mark, two persons who can write sign here.

13

Witness sign here.



PENSION AFFIDAVIT.

State of Kentucky
County of Anderson

In the matter of the pension claim of No 237508 Co E 19th Regt Ky Vols of Zachariah King personally came before me, a notary public, in and for aforesaid county and state, Daniel C Strutton, aged 47 years residing at same place, well known to me to be reputable and entitled to credit, who having been duly sworn declares in relation to the aforesaid case as follows:

The affiant state that I am well acquainted with the above claimant for 35 years and that I saw him just after he was discharged and came home in 1865 and that he was complaining of having rheumatism and hurting him his back and I have seen him every 2 or 3 weeks every year since his discharge till the present time 1890 and ge was complaining all of the time and I have known him to be laid up at different times all of the years for 3 or 4 weeks at a time and I consider him one half disabled from performing manual labor. I am acquainted with these facts from having been a neighbor ever since 1865 until the present time 1890.

My post office address is Hook Pole, Anderson Co. KY

I further declare that I have no interest in the case, and am not concerned in its prosecution

David Strutton

This pension affidavit, given in 1890 by Daniel C. Strutton of Anderson County, Kentucky, provides important testimony in support of the Civil War pension claim of Zachariah King, a veteran of Company E, 19th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry. Strutton stated under oath that he had known King for approximately thirty-five years and had observed his condition closely since King returned home from military service in 1865. According to Strutton, King frequently complained of rheumatism and persistent back pain, ailments that periodically left him unable to work for several weeks at a time. As a longtime neighbor who saw him regularly over the decades, Strutton concluded that King was about half disabled from performing manual labor. Statements like this were a critical component of the federal pension process, as neighbors and acquaintances were often called upon to confirm the long-term health effects of wartime service, making this affidavit an important piece of evidence documenting the lasting physical hardships King endured after the Civil War.

ACT OF MAY 11, 1912.

N^o 23750

UNITED STATES AMERICA

DEPARTMENT



of the INTERIOR

BUREAU OF PENSIONS

PLEASE RETURN YOUR OLD PENSION
CERTIFICATE IN ENCLOSED ENVELOPE

It is hereby certified That in conformity with the laws of the
United States Zachariah King
who was a Private Co C, 19 Regiment Kentucky
Infantry

is entitled to
a pension at the rate of Thirty dollars per month, to
commence June 5-1912

Given at the Department of the Interior this
twenty-fifth day of March
one thousand nine hundred and thirteen
and of the Independence of the United States
of America the one hundred and thirty-seventh

Merrill K. Lane
Secretary of the Interior

Countersigned.

J. L. Davenport

Commissioner of Pensions

m

Former payments covering any portion of the same time to be deducted.

Exhibit K.

✓ State of Kentucky }
County of Anderson } ss. I John Barnett
States that I am a resident of the County of
Washington and state Appraiser, being duly
Sworn according to law, upon his oath ^{sworn} That he
is the identical John Barnett who was late Capt.
C. E. 19th Reg. Ky. Inft. Vols: and that Zackariah
King was a member of said organization, that
he lives near Lisa and has for 20 years, that
said King, was one of ~~the~~ ^{the} stoutest men of my
Company, and done more good service, that I
know he was sound & very little Camp Sickness
that he was on detail, and I was Captured
and saw no more of that I am satisfied nothing
of the kind aided him up to the time of his detail
as set forth in his Declaration for Invalid
Pension, and that he should have a pension
Affiant has no interest in this matter.
} John Barnett

com

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th
day of ¹⁸⁷⁷ and I certify that the party whose name
appears signed to the foregoing affidavit is the
person he represents himself to be, and Credible
that the foregoing affidavit was read over to and
well understood before signing, and that I have
no interest in this matter.

John H. Morgan as Justice
of the Peace for Anderson County

After the war, Zack resumed the agricultural life that had defined his family for generations. Kentucky never experienced the scale of industrialization seen further north after 1865 — so most Union veterans like Zack returned to quiet rural labor rather than celebratory public veteran culture. Zack and Mary Frances “Polly” Hammack raised their children in this setting. Over the decades, Kentucky changed slowly, and Zack aged into old age still within that same slow-moving world.

By 1910, Zack and Polly were in their late 70s. They went to live in Little Mountain, Spencer County in the household of one of their children — a common pattern for elderly Kentuckians whose adult children were gradually drawn toward Louisville’s modern economy. Zack died 14 February 1913 in Jefferson County. Polly died later that same year.

From Zack King and Mary Frances “Polly” Hammack came: **John W. King**, born 1867 in Lawrenceburg, Anderson County — the man who, in 1917, moved his entire household to DeKalb, DeKalb County, Illinois during the WWI labor migration period.

This is the link by which the King line left Kentucky after more than a century and entered the Midwest.



The Poulter-King Family Cemetery is a small historic burial site located near Klondyke in Anderson County, Kentucky. Situated just off Leathers Road, a short distance from Penny’s Chapel United Methodist Church, the cemetery serves as the final resting place for members of several early local families, including the Poulter, King, Puckett, and Hammock families. The site is largely unmarked and receives minimal maintenance, characteristics typical of rural family burial grounds established during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.





John W. King was born 8 April 1867 in Lawrenceburg, Anderson County, Kentucky, the sixth child of **Zachariah Daniel “Zack” King** and **Mary Frances “Polly” Hammack**. He grew up in the post-Civil War generation in central Kentucky — a generation that lived with the aftermath of war, but also with the realities of rebuilding family life in the same rural communities that had existed before the conflict.



John also grew up in a household marked by the enduring consequences of his father’s war injury — the rupture suffered lifting cotton bales in the Red River operations in 1865 — and this permanent disability formed part of the economic reality of his childhood in postwar Kentucky. In the 1870 and 1880 Federal Census records, John appears still living in Anderson County as a child and young man. His formative years were spent in a Kentucky that had not industrialized at the pace of the Northern states. Work was agricultural, seasonally structured, and labor was physically intensive. Social and economic mobility was often limited. As young men in his generation matured, many began to look beyond their home counties toward growing towns and small cities, and toward new industries.

MARRIAGE BOND.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY.

Be it Known, That we, John B. King
as principal, and E. B. Stratton
as surety, are jointly and severally bound to the Commonwealth of Kentucky in
the sum of One Hundred Dollars.

The Condition of this Bond is as follows:

That, whereas, Marriage is intended to be solemnized between the above
bound John B. King
and Miss Mary J. Stratton

Now, if there is no lawful cause to obstruct said Marriage, this Bond shall
be void, otherwise it shall remain in full force and effect.

Dated at Lawrenceburg, Anderson County, Ky., this 10th day
of October 1893

Attest:

P. H. Thomas

Clerk Anderson County Court.

By

D. C.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

This is to Certify, That on the 11 day of October 1893

the RITES OF MARRIAGE were legally solemnized by me between John B. King

and Miss Mary J. Stratton

at my house in the County of Anderson

in the presence of John B. Stratton Alvin B. Moore

Wm. H. Williams

Signed,

Br. A. Moore

Filed & Recorded November 11th 1893
P. H. Thomas clerk

MALE

1. Date of Marriage October 11th 1893

2. Name of Groom John B. King

3. Residence of Groom Anderson County Ky

4. Age of Groom 23

5. Number of Marriage of Groom first

6. Occupation Farmer

7. Birthplace of Groom Anderson County Ky

8. Name and Birthplace of Groom's Father J. King
Anderson County Ky

9. Name and Birthplace of Groom's Mother Mary King
Anderson County Ky

FEMALE

10. Name of Bride Mary J. Stratton

11. Residence of Bride Anderson County Ky

12. Age of Bride 17

13. Number of Marriage of Bride first

14. Birthplace of Bride Anderson County Ky

15. Name and Birthplace of Bride's Father Jacob Stratton
Anderson County Ky

16. Name and Birthplace of Bride's Mother Lucy M. Stratton
Anderson County Ky

17. Remarks

X. N.—At Mar. 5 and 13 state whether first, second, etc. Marriage of each or either party.

To be Married at Br. A. Moore

on the 11th day of October 1893

I CERTIFY that the above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Witness my hand, this 10th day of October 1893

Attest:

P. H. Thomas

Clerk.

On 11 October 1893, John married Mary Jane Stratton in Kentucky. Over the next twenty years, he lived within the broader central Kentucky corridor — including Anderson and Jefferson County — and worked to support a growing household. John and Mary Jane raised twelve children, including our direct ancestor, **Ethel Bruce King**, born 7 January 1907 in Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky.



John W. King

b. Apr 8th 1867
d. Jan 11th 1937



Mary Jane Stratton

b. May 29th 1876
d. Nov 28th 1951



Maude E. King

b. May 31st 1896
d. Apr 23rd 1973
m. Garnett Pinkston



Charles L. King

b. Feb 2nd 1899
d. Jan 16th 1976
m. Martha Church



Ruby E. King

b. Aug 15th 1900
d. Nov 30th 1957
m. Floyd Hoadley



Daniel T. King

b. 1901
d. Jan 16th 1911



Rosalee "Rosie" King

b. Dec 17th 1904
d. Jul 30th 1979
m. Mark Braffett



Ethel B. King

b. Jan 7th 1907
d. Aug 29th 1979
m. Arthur Cook & Murrell Denny



Sadie King

b. Nov 12th 1910
d. Feb 14th 1997
m. Frank Mueller



Nora Belle King

b. Jul 30th 1911
d. Nov 18th 1986
m. Roy Olson & Robert Nepean



Hugh Wire King

b. Sep 7th 1911
d. Aug 19th 1998
m. Florence Hill



John Perdum King

b. Aug 1st 1914
d. Aug 1st 1988
m. Doris Johnson



Raymond G. King

b. Mar 2nd 1916
d. Mar 30th 1961
m. Mildred Olson



Clyde W. King

b. Sep 4th 1922
d. Dec 20th 2002
m. Irene Heath



Left to right: Mary Jane Stratton, Maud King, Charles Leslie King, Ruby King

The First World War changed the American labor landscape. Factories and municipalities in the Midwest were hiring. In September 1917, John did something no one in his family line had done in more than 115 years: he uprooted from Kentucky and moved his entire family to DeKalb, Illinois. In the 1920 census, John is recorded in DeKalb working as a laborer at the gas works — part of the city-level infrastructure that supported a rapidly modernizing community. By the early 1920s, John had secured stable municipal employment with the City of DeKalb, where he would remain for approximately fifteen years.



Mary Jane (Stratton) King

John lived out the remainder of his life in DeKalb. On 11 January 1937, at age 69, he died in St. Mary's Hospital after suffering a stroke and head injury while on duty at the DeKalb City Dump. He was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in DeKalb, DeKalb County, Illinois.

John W. King marks the structural turning point in the King bloodline. With his move in 1917, the long Kentucky era of our direct King ancestors ended completely. The line that began in Amherst County, Virginia, and settled in Estill and Anderson County, Kentucky in the early 1800s — crossed into the Midwest. From John came Ethel Bruce King, who married Arthur Cook, Sr.

John W. King Passes Away Monday Night

John W. King, age 69, for the past fifteen years a faithful employee of the city of DeKalb as the custodian of the city dump grounds, passed away at 7:20 o'clock last night at the St. Mary's hospital. Mr. King was removed to the hospital early on Saturday morning after being found at his headquarters at the dump in an unconscious condition. Death was the result of a stroke of paralysis and a possible skull fracture, according to the attending doctor. How Mr. King was injured has not been learned by members of the family.

John W. King was born on April 8, 1867, in Anderson county, Ky., in which community he resided until September 1917, when the family moved to this city, the home having been made here since then. During his many years residence here he formed many friendships.

In 1892 Mr. King was united in marriage to Miss Mary Jane Stratton. He leaves to mourn his death his wife and eleven sons and daughters, Charles, Hughie, Perdum, Raymond, Clyde, Mrs. Garnet Pinkston, Mrs. Mark Braffett, Mrs. Robert Nepean, and Mrs. Arthur Cook of this city, and Mrs. Sadie Miller of Sycamore and Mrs. Floyd Hoadley of Jackson, Mich., twenty grandchildren, and two brothers and one sister, William King of Arizona, Moran King of Willmore, Ky., and Mrs. Emma Hail of Louisville, Ky.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock from the Nelson & Ronan chapel, the Rev. B. C. Swaney, of the Methodist church to conduct the service. Interment will be in the Oakwood cemetery.

The Daily Chronicle

De Kalb, Illinois • Tue, Jan 12, 1937 Page 1

John King Is Seriously Ill It Is Learned

Little hope was held today for the recovery of John King, veteran custodian of the city dump, who was found Saturday morning at the dump in an unconscious condition. Indications are that he spent the entire night at the dump, out in the open, and he is also suffering from exposure.

King was removed to the St. Mary's hospital. According to the attending physician indications are that Mr. King suffered a stroke of paralysis and he may also be suffering from a skull fracture. Since being admitted to the hospital his condition has been such that a complete and thorough examination has been impossible.

The Daily Chronicle

De Kalb, Illinois • Mon, Jan 11, 1937 Page 7



John W. King
with unknown grandchild



Mary Jane (Stratton) King



Maude E. (King) Pinkston

MRS. MARY KING

Mrs. Mary King, 75, 927 South Sixth, Street, died Wednesday evening, Nov. 28, 1951, at the St. Mary's Hospital where she had been a patient for the past seven weeks. Mrs. King had been a resident of DeKalb for a number of years.

She was born in Anderson County, Kentucky, May 29, 1876, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Stratton and was united in marriage in 1893 to John King in Kentucky.

Surviving are five sons, Clyde, John, Hughie, Charlie and Raymond King, all of DeKalb; six daughters, Mrs. Ethel Clark, Mrs. Roy Rigby, and Mrs. Frank Mueller, all of DeKalb, Mrs. Roy Olson of Sycamore, Mrs. Garnet Pinkston of Maple Park and Mrs. Floyd Hoadley of Jackson, Mich.; 45 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Mrs. Loy Rigdon and Mrs. John Showen, both of Cincinnati. Her husband passed away January 11, 1937, and she was also preceded in death by her parents, four children and one brother.

Funeral services will be conducted Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Ronan Mortuary with Rev. David Bergstrom, pastor of the Mission Covenant Church, officiating. Interment will be in the Oakwood Cemetery.

Friends may call at the Ronan Mortuary after 7 o'clock this evening.

The Daily Chronicle
De Kalb, Illinois • Thu, Nov 29, 1951 Page 2

Oakwood Cemetery DeKalb, Illinois



Established in 1865—originally under the name Oakland Cemetery—it reflects the growth of DeKalb during the mid-nineteenth century as the town developed into an agricultural and commercial center in northern Illinois. As the population expanded, a dedicated public cemetery became necessary, replacing the earlier practice of burying the dead in small family plots on private farms.

The cemetery lies just north of the intersection of Sycamore Road and North First Street, near the historic Ellwood House and the First Congregational United Church of Christ. Though modest in size compared to later cemeteries in the area, Oakwood preserves the graves of many early residents whose lives were intertwined with the settlement and development of DeKalb and the surrounding countryside.

Among those buried here are John W. King and his wife Mary Jane Stratton King, whose family story reflects the lives of many Midwestern settlers of the late nineteenth century. Their burial at Oakwood places them among the early families whose labor, farms, and households helped shape the community during its formative years. Today, Oakwood Cemetery remains a quiet historical landmark, preserving the memory of DeKalb's early generations.



John & Mary King Headstone
Oakwood Cemetery, DeKalb, Illinois



Nora Bell King Nepean Olson
Sister of Ethel King Cook



Ethel is on the right, others are unknown
but are likely Ethel's sisters



Unknown, likely sisters of Ethel King Cook

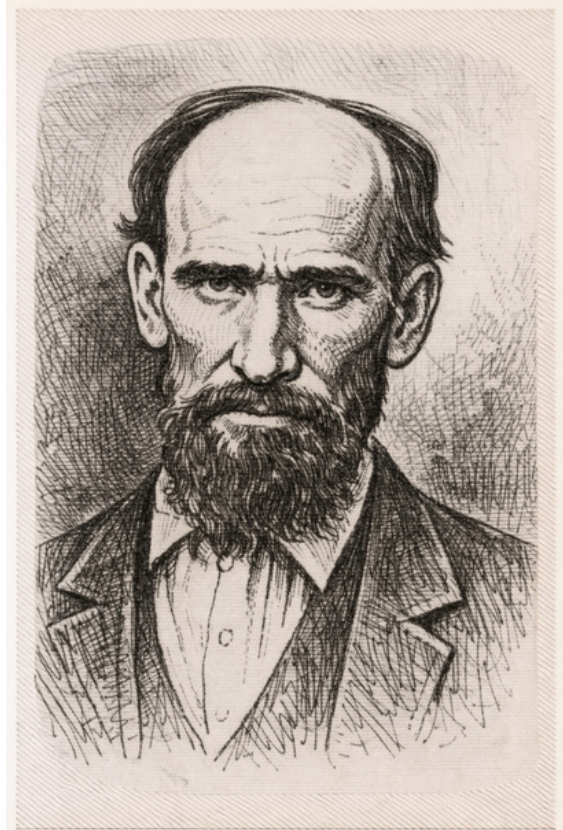
Jacob "Jube" Stratton

1 November 1852 – 7 June 1933

Jacob Jube Stratton was a lifelong resident of Anderson County, Kentucky, whose life bridged the post-Civil War era and the early twentieth century. Born in Lawrenceburg to **Jacob C. Stratton** and **America Hannah Young**, he grew up in a large rural household shaped by farming, kinship, and the steady demands of agricultural life common to central Kentucky during this period. Census records place him consistently in Anderson County from his youth through old age, reflecting deep roots in the Lawrenceburg area and a life marked by geographic stability.

Jacob married twice during his lifetime. His first marriage produced the majority of his children, and by the early 1870s he was already a young father supporting a growing family. On 3 November 1873, he married **Lucy Mildred Riley**, his second wife. This marriage resulted in three known children, the second of whom was **Mary Jane Stratton**, born on 29 May 1876. Mary Jane would later marry **John W. King**, carrying the Stratton lineage into the King family and forming an important generational bridge between the two lines documented in this volume.

Throughout his adult life, Jacob worked within the rural economy of Anderson County, most likely as a farmer or agricultural laborer, a role consistent with both his upbringing and his repeated appearance in federal census records. His life was marked by both responsibility and loss. He outlived his parents, several siblings, and ultimately Lucy, who died in 1927. Despite these losses, Jacob remained in the Lawrenceburg area into advanced age and was still enumerated in the 1930 census at nearly eighty years old.

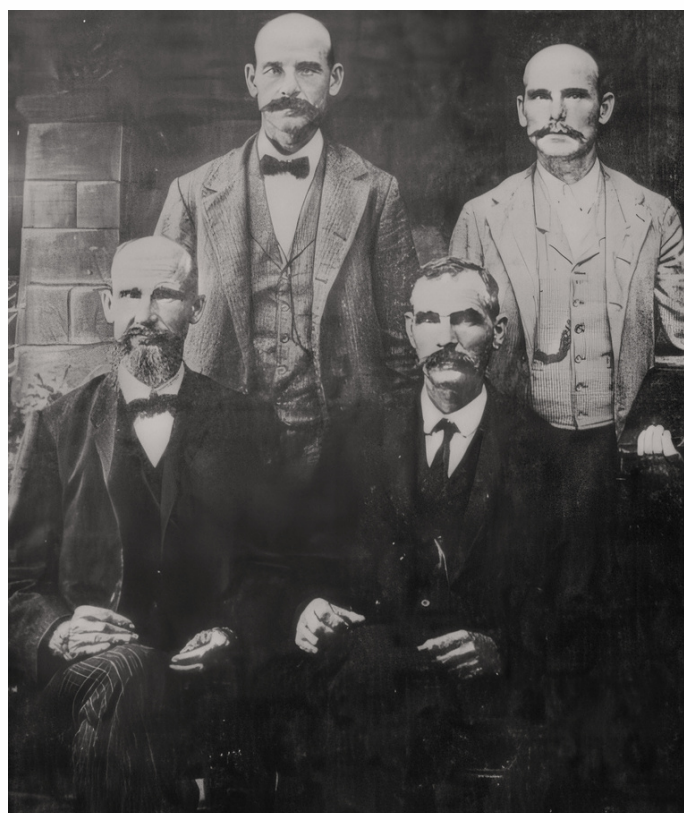


Jacob Stratton
LAWRENCEBURG, Ky., June 9
—Funeral services for Jacob Stratton, 80, who died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. America West, in Tyrone Wednesday afternoon, were conducted at the Sand Spring Baptist church Thursday afternoon by the Rev. W. D. Moore. Burial was in the church cemetery. Surviving Mr. Stratton are four daughters: Mrs. West and Mrs. Nora Yocum, of Tyrone; Mrs. Bryan Hawkins, of Lawrenceburg, and Mrs. Leona Penney, of Lexington; and two sons, William and Ben Stratton, of Mercer county.

The Lexington Herald
Lexington, Kentucky · Saturday, June 10, 1933



Jacob "Jube" Stratton and 1st wife Sarah



Jube and three of his brothers.
Jube is front left. Next to him is Marion.
Standing are Frank and Scott Stratton



America Hannah (Young) Stratton
Mother of Jube Stratton



Lucy Mildred Riley Stratton

8 April 1854 – 31 July 1927

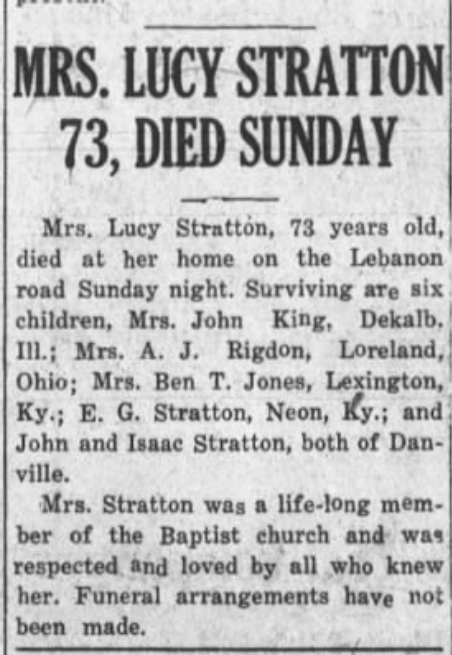
Lucy Mildred Riley was born on 8 April 1854 in Mercer County, Kentucky, the daughter of **John A. Riley** and **Mary J. Beasley**. She grew up in the rural communities of central Kentucky during the mid-nineteenth century, a period when family life revolved largely around agriculture, church, and close-knit kinship networks. After the death of her father in 1873, Lucy soon began a family of her own.

On 3 November 1873, at about nineteen years of age, Lucy married **Jacob “Jube” Stratton** in Washington County, Kentucky. Their marriage established Lucy within the Stratton family, a line long rooted in the region. Over the next several years the couple welcomed three children: **John E. Stratton** (1874), **Mary Jane Stratton** (1876), and **Lydia A. Stratton** (1878). These early years of marriage were likely spent in Anderson County, Kentucky, where the young family appears in the records of the period.

Among their children, Mary Jane Stratton, born 29 May 1876 in Anderson County, would become particularly significant to later generations of the family. Mary Jane eventually married **John W. King**, and through this union the Stratton line continued into the King family—establishing the ancestral connection that would lead to later descendants, including those documented in this family history.

Lucy’s marriage to Jacob Stratton eventually ended, and in 1882 she married Elijah Butler Stratton, a distant cousin of Jube’s, with whom she had several additional children. In later years Lucy lived in Boyle County, Kentucky, where she spent the remainder of her life. She died on 31 July 1927 in Danville, Kentucky, at the age of seventy-three.

Though the surviving records of Lucy Mildred Riley Stratton are limited, her life reflects the experience of many nineteenth-century Kentucky women whose influence was expressed through family and community rather than public record. Through her daughter Mary Jane Stratton and the generations that followed, Lucy’s place in the family story continues to endure.



The Advocate-Messenger

Danville, Kentucky • Mon, Aug 1, 1927 Page 1

A decorative border surrounds the central text. It consists of four corner squares and four side rectangles. The corner squares feature a complex interlocking knot design with a central flower. The side rectangles feature a repeating floral and foliate pattern. All decorative elements are in shades of green and white.

CHAPTER 12

DEKALB
ILLINOIS



Between 1917 and the mid-twentieth century, DeKalb, Illinois evolved from a prosperous agricultural market town into a growing regional center defined by education, war, and postwar expansion. During these decades, DeKalb attracted families from surrounding rural communities and more distant parts of Illinois, offering stability, employment, and permanence at moments when many smaller towns could not. It was within this changing environment that the King, Cook, and Gibbs families—each following a different migratory path—were gradually drawn together. Their convergence unfolded over more than half a century and was ultimately sealed in 1954 with the marriage of **George Lincoln Gibbs** and **Barbara Jean Cook**, uniting three family lines whose histories had increasingly centered on DeKalb.

By the early twentieth century, DeKalb had already distinguished itself from many Midwestern towns of similar size. Founded as a farming community, it retained strong agricultural roots, but its identity was increasingly shaped by the presence of the Illinois State Normal School, established in 1895 to train teachers for the state's rapidly expanding public school system. The school brought students, faculty, and state investment to DeKalb, stabilizing the local economy and insulating it—at least partially—from agricultural downturns.

Railroads connected DeKalb to Chicago, Rockford, and other regional markets, allowing local farmers to ship grain and dairy products while also bringing manufactured goods and people into the city.

By 1917, DeKalb was both a farm town and a college town, combining rural sensibilities with a growing institutional presence. This blend made it particularly attractive to families seeking opportunity without the scale or anonymity of a major city.

It was into this environment that **John King** arrived in DeKalb in 1917, becoming the earliest representative of the three family lines to establish residence in the city itself. His arrival coincided with the United States' entry into World War I, a moment that reshaped even small Midwestern communities. Draft registration, military training, and wartime production touched nearly every household, while labor demand increased across transportation, agriculture, and local services.

DeKalb's relative stability during this period made it an appealing destination. While some communities experienced sharp population swings tied to wartime industry, DeKalb absorbed growth more steadily, anchored by the Normal School and its supporting economy. John King's early settlement placed his family within the city decades before the later arrival of the Cook and Gibbs families, establishing roots that would eventually intersect with theirs.

While the King family's connection to DeKalb began during the First World War, the Cook family's path toward the city unfolded across multiple generations and counties.

DeKalb, Circa 1920s





DeKalb, Illinois - Looking north on North 2nd from Lincoln Highway



Along E. Lincoln Highway.
DeKalb, Ill.

In the 1890s, **William Albert Cook**, father of **Arthur Cook Sr.**, relocated from Jasper County, Illinois, to Gallatin County, remaining within the agricultural culture of southern Illinois. This move reflected the late-nineteenth-century search for viable farmland and economic stability that characterized many Midwestern families.

By 1910, William Albert Cook had moved northward again, settling in Meridan, LaSalle County, Illinois. This relocation marked a significant transition away from southern Illinois and toward a region with greater industrial activity, railroad access, and wage labor opportunities. It was during this period of family mobility that Arthur Cook Sr. was born in 1907, growing up amid the realities of migration and adaptation.

By the 1920 federal census, William Albert Cook was living in Paw Paw, DeKalb County. Paw Paw represented a crucial intermediate step: still rural and agricultural, yet firmly within DeKalb's economic orbit. Residents of Paw Paw relied increasingly on DeKalb for commerce, services, and employment, making the city a natural destination as rural opportunities narrowed.

Arthur Cook Sr. would follow his father's path closely. Reaching adulthood during the volatile years surrounding the Great Depression, Arthur repeated the generational northward migration. As farm incomes declined and rural economies contracted, DeKalb's diversified employment base—education, light industry, service work, and commerce—offered a measure of security unavailable in smaller towns. By the mid-1930s,

both William Albert Cook and Arthur Cook Sr. had arrived in DeKalb, completing a migration that had begun more than forty years earlier.

The Great Depression reshaped life throughout DeKalb County. Banks failed, unemployment rose, and families relied heavily on kin networks and informal economies. Yet DeKalb weathered the crisis better than many purely agricultural communities. The Normal School—soon to evolve into Northern Illinois State Teachers College—continued to draw students and state funding, providing a stabilizing force during years of widespread hardship.

For families like the Cooks, relocation to DeKalb during or after the Depression was not simply a move toward opportunity; it was a move toward survival. DeKalb increasingly functioned as a regional anchor, absorbing population from surrounding towns such as Paw Paw and Shabbona and concentrating economic activity within its limits. By the late 1930s, the Cook family's center of life had shifted decisively to DeKalb, placing them in close proximity to the King family, whose roots in the city stretched back to 1917.

The Second World War accelerated changes already underway. DeKalb residents enlisted, registered for the draft, and participated in rationing and war-related production. Women entered wage labor in greater numbers, and households adapted to absence and uncertainty. At the same time, wartime demand and federal investment laid the groundwork for postwar growth.



DeKalb Post Office - South West corner of 1st and Lincoln Highway
Site of the present day Walgreens

After 1945, DeKalb entered a period of rapid expansion. Returning veterans, housing shortages, and the growth of Northern Illinois State Teachers College reshaped the city's physical and social landscape. New neighborhoods spread beyond the historic core, automobiles altered daily life, and paved roads tied DeKalb more closely to surrounding communities. It was during this moment of postwar optimism that the final family line arrived.

George Lincoln Gibbs was the son of **Thomas Wayne Gibbs** and **Mary Gertrude (Mattingly) Gibbs**, connecting him to deep southern Illinois roots and earlier frontier migrations. He attended school in Harrisburg before moving to DeKalb in 1949, at the age of twenty.

George's arrival occurred at a pivotal moment. DeKalb was no longer simply a regional hub; it was becoming a permanent home for families seeking stability and upward mobility in the postwar era. His move reflects a broader mid-century pattern in which young adults left smaller towns for growing regional centers rather than major cities.

Like many men of his generation, George's life was shaped by military service. He served in the United States Army from 1951 to 1953 during the Korean War, linking his personal story to another global conflict that deeply affected American communities.

The gradual convergence of the King, Cook, and Gibbs families was formally and symbolically completed in 1954, when George Lincoln Gibbs married Barbara Jean Cook. Barbara was the daughter of Arthur Cook Sr. and Ethel King, uniting all three family lines in a single marriage.

This union represented the culmination of decades of movement toward DeKalb: the King family's early arrival in 1917, the Cook family's multi-generational migration from Jasper and Gallatin counties through Meridan and Paw Paw to DeKalb by the 1930s, and the Gibbs family's postwar settlement in 1949. What had once been parallel stories of migration and adaptation became a single, shared family narrative rooted firmly in DeKalb.

The story of DeKalb between 1917 and 1954 is, at its core, a story of convergence shaped by place as much as by people. Through war and peace, rural decline and urban growth, three families followed distinct paths toward the same city. DeKalb's unique blend of agriculture, education, and opportunity drew them together gradually, until they were bound not only by geography, but by marriage and shared life.

The 1954 marriage of George Lincoln Gibbs and Barbara Jean Cook stands as the defining moment when generations of movement and proximity were united into a single lineage. By mid-century, DeKalb was no longer simply a destination—it was an inherited home, anchoring the lives and memories of the generations that followed.

In piecing together these lives—the Gibbs, Williams, Mattingly, Cook, and King families—we have done more than record names, dates, and places. We have resurrected voices. We have restored connections. We have returned memory to those whom history nearly forgot.

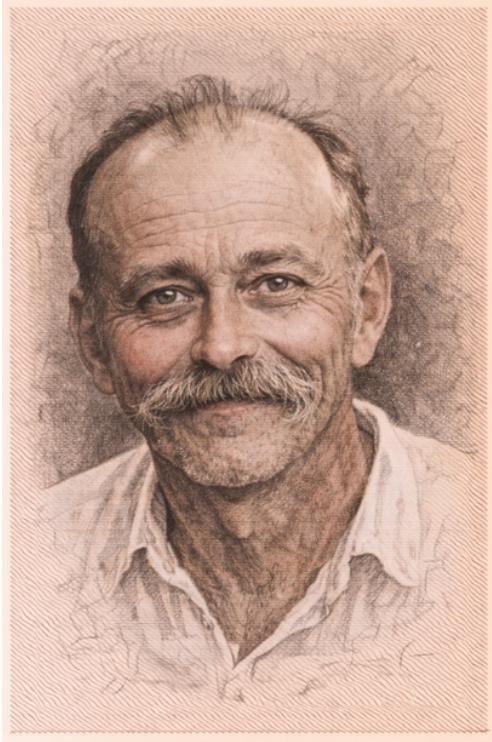
Their journeys were not perfect, their choices not always noble, their paths not always clear—but each life contributed a thread to the woven fabric of who we are. Their migrations, marriages, hardships, triumphs, and quiet acts of endurance echo in our blood, our traditions, and our enduring curiosity about where we came from.

As this book closes, their story does not. It continues in every living descendant, every family photograph, every cemetery visit, every shared recollection, and every question yet unanswered. The past is never fully buried. It speaks—softly, insistently—through the very act of remembering.

May this work stand not as an ending, but as an invitation: to keep searching, keep wondering, and keep telling the stories that time tried to erase.



In Memory of...



Roger Allen Gibbs
9 April 1954 – 15 January 2021



Sue Mueller Davis
14 April 1951 – 10 September 2025

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Some sources in this work are cited specifically to demonstrate that certain presumed relationships between our Gibbs family and other Gibbs families do not exist. The inclusion of a source does not imply a familial connection to the individuals or lines discussed. These materials are cited as part of a rigorous, evidence-based approach to genealogical research and are not intended to challenge the legitimacy of other families who share the Gibbs surname.

The vital records, census records, land records and other public documents referenced in this work were obtained primarily through Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org.

A comprehensive, chapter-by-chapter source list has not been included, as it currently exceeds sixty-five pages when limited only to the individuals named in chapter titles and does not account for sources consulted for siblings, extended family members, and collateral lines. To reduce unnecessary length and printing costs, this full citation list has been omitted from the present volume.

Complete source documentation remains accessible through the above-mentioned platforms and can also be provided upon request.

ON THE BACK COVER:

View over the Garden Of The Gods as sunset approaches
part of Shawnee National Forest, Herod, Pope County, Illinois.



Derek M. Gibbs

Grandson of George L. Gibbs
and Barbara J. Cook

This book tells the story of the Gibbs and the related Cook, King, Mattingly, and Williams families—not as names on a chart, but as lives once lived.

From the hills of Pennsylvania and Kentucky to Indiana farmsteads, Illinois homesteads, coal towns, and northern factory cities, these families followed the promise of land, work, and a better future for their children. They were farmers and laborers, mothers and soldiers, shaped by war, migration, faith, loss, and resilience.

Much of their story was nearly lost. Through records, photographs, and rediscovered evidence, these lives are brought back into view—so they are no longer just ancestors, but people again.

Written for descendants and future generations, this book is an act of remembrance: a way of honoring where we come from, and why those journeys still matter.

